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FROM :	Amembassy CAIRO		510		DESP. NO.
TO :	THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.		January 6, 1961		DATE
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27 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.			
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	1-11	USIA-11 ARMY-35 NAVY-20 AIR-25 CIA-16 USD-2			
SUBJECT:	JOINT WEEKA NO. 1		DEC-2 USA-4		

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From Ambassy Cairo

POLITICAL

1. President Nasser in Casablanca.

With President Nasser attending the so-called "African Summit Conference" in Casablanca, the local political scene has been relatively quiet. The Cairo press features daily stories claiming a wildly enthusiastic reception of Nasser by the Moroccan people and a predominant role for him at the Conference and in bi-lateral talks with the other African heads of state. One story claims that it was Nasser's influence that finally decided Nkrumah to pull the Ghanaian troops out of the UN Command in the Congo. (See also Psychological) (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference.

The press has reported that the Council of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference will meet in Cairo on January 21-22 to discuss the situation in the Congo and "the imperialist conspiracies there." The convening of this meeting has been confirmed by a UAR official of the AASC Secretariat. According to the press, the AASC's Egyptian Secretary-General Yusef Sebai in issuing invitations to the meeting urged AASC members to "continue denunciation of the crimes of the imperialists and their agents against the Congolese people." Subsequently the press published a cable from Sebai to the "African Summit Conference" which said that "the imperialists, with the USA at the top of the list, are using the most brutal means and have been mobilizing forces and collecting funds to defend their influence and position in Africa." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: From the tone of these statements and the play given them in the government-controlled press, it appears that the UAR is using the AASC as a means of increasing its propaganda for, and seeking broader Afro-Asian support for, its pro-Lumumba Congo policy. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. Israeli Diversion of Jordan River.

According to news reports from Jerusalem, Israel has allocated the equivalent of 8 million pounds sterling in the new budget for the "first stage" of the diversion of the River Jordan. It is stated that present plans envisage drawing water directly from Lake Tiberias, instead of the Jordan itself, and a French-Israeli company is now installing pumping facilities.

MENA Government-controlled news agency, in comment on the Israeli project, attributed the change in plan to the "vigilant and firm" stand taken by the UAR during the Tawafik incident, as a result of which

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Israel abandoned her original scheme and planned instead to take water directly from Tiberias. Quite predictably, the editorial comment then reviewed Israeli "defiance" of the UN, "imperialist-Zionist conspiracies", Israeli malleability in Western hands, and proclaimed that this newest plot against the Arabs will fail.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Arab League Meeting.

At the request of the Iraqi Government, the Arab League Secretariat has notified member states that the next session of the League, at the level of Foreign Ministers, will be held in Baghdad on January 28. While the agenda has not been released, and is in all likelihood not final, it certainly will include items mentioned Embdes 495 ("Palestine entity", Algeria, Israel's diversion of Jordan River). (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Military Aspect of African Summit Conference.

During the meeting of the eight-nation African Summit Conference several items of military interest have been published in the UAR:

(a) The Cairo press reports that in his opening address, King Mohammed proposed the disarming of all armed bands which threaten the peace in the Congo. He stated that the complete evacuation of all Belgian forces from the Congo should be expedited ... and proposed further the evacuation of all occupation forces from Africa.

(b) A brief press item from Casablanca datelined January 5 stated that Ghana will withdraw her troops from the United Nations Command in the Congo according to delegation sources at the African Summit Conference. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Most of the Summit military pronouncements published in Cairo demand "Africa for the Africans". However, it appears that Soviet equipment and technical support is given "African" labels and does not appear as offensive as similar Western aid. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Newly Assigned Military Attaches.

Lt. Col. Gabriel VERD Moner, Military Attache for Spain to the UAR arrived in Cairo.

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Three Turkish Attaches to the UAR also arrived recently:
Lt. Col. Selahattin KAHRAMAN, Military Attache; Captain H. Fahir
ENGIN, Naval Attache, and Captain Sermet YUZER, Assistant Air Attache.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The Turkish posts have been vacant for several
months as a result of Lt. Col. Cavat TUNA being reassigned during
the military seizure of the Government of Turkey. (CONFIDENTIAL)

AIR - Negative.

NAVY - Negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. US Versus Cuba.

The United States is unanimously blamed for the Cuban develop-
ments. Castro is described by the Cairo press as "the hero of Latin
America" ("Akhbar") and the first Cuban who has dared to stand up
against abortive American policy towards his country. Breaking off
diplomatic relations has been extensively reported with slanted news
items leaving little doubt as to who is the guilty party. Only the
English-language "Egyptian Gazette" described in detail Castro's
preliminary moves which led to the diplomatic crisis. According to
"Gumhuriya", "U.S. sabre-rattling is but the last exercise for the
application of the war brinkmanship policy of Dulles' disciples.
Laos and Cuba are not just two nations, they represent a historic
current with which the US cannot possibly cope." "Akhbar" granted
considerable space to the Cuban Ambassador who in an exclusive
interview repeated his government's line that a US attack on his
country was imminent. He added that Cuba, with the help of its
friends, was ready, and expressly rattled Russian rockets.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Laos.

Events in Laos served as another springboard for anti-US
editorials. Abdul Aziz Fahmy, a notoriously anti-Western writer,
said in "Gumhuriya": "The USA, when leading the SEATO states in
an attempt to interfere politically and militarily in the internal
affairs of Laos, and when it tries to violate the Geneva treaty by
forcing Laos to adhere to military and political Western bloc,
endangers peace in the Far East and indirectly in the entire world."
"Akhbar" included the following observation: "The US Government may
still be influenced by the opinion expressed by the late John
Foster Dulles ... that local wars may be the way to avoid a global
conflict."

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"Gumhuriya" accused America of trying to undermine Laos' neutrality with dollars and agents ("in the last five years US spent \$250 million to finance subversive activities") and of defying the letter and the spirit of the Geneva agreement.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

3. UAR and Africa.

The Casablanca Conference, events in the Congo, Algeria and other African countries, provoked a number of press comments. Ahmed Baha El Din in an editorial in "Akhbar El Yom" wrote: "Events in the Congo and the Casablanca Conference overshadowed the Jordanian, Iraqi and other events ... (because) our interest in the African scene is vital in our position against Israel's political and economic infiltration of Africa. Cairo for a long period of time has been the center of many African liberation movements. Our press is writing on Africa and our radios beam to Africans ... Arabism is our national cause, but Africa's cause is that of our neighbors." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Casablanca. All media played heavily President Nasser's participation in the Casablanca Conference, front-paged descriptions of an enthusiastic welcome he reportedly received from the Moroccan population. According to "Ahram", "The Casablanca Conference started new pages in African history." "Gumhuriya" in the same connection stated: "Africa's cauldron is smouldering and like a volcano on the point of eruption, threatens to spill its destructive fires and to annihilate colonialists ... If imperialists are joining forces to destroy and kill, there is nothing for African states to do but to agree how to prevent the imperialists from doing it." (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Congo. Press comment directly on the Congo was relatively light during the week, but a declaration issued by the Lumumba-Congolese mission in Cairo was prominently featured. "Gumhuriya" and "Akhbar" carried the statement in full. The mission singled out the United States as the principal target of criticism, accused America of "installing Kasavubu and Mobutu". The statement ended: "In order to face the latest conspiracies and attempts by Mobutu to enforce an economic blockade on Stanleyville province, a delegation of the legal Congolese Government is remaining presently in Cairo, and is charged with conducting all necessary contacts in order to inform world opinion on the extreme difficulties with which the new republic is faced." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Algeria. The forthcoming referendum on de Gaulle's proposed plebiscite for Algeria was uniformly rejected by press commentators, all of whom followed the PAG line. According to "Ahram" it would be

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(UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Salah Salem Submits Questions to President-Elect Kennedy.

attitude toward the Arabs". (UNCLASSIFIED)

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6. Gorgi Zhukov's Interview in "Rose El Youssef".

units and the world won its battle against polio." (UNCLASSIFIED)

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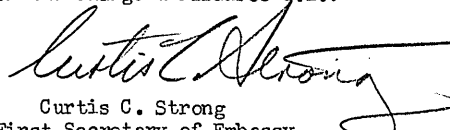
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Comment: For a Soviet representative in this area to credit the US with any contribution to the world's welfare is a new twist as far as the Embassy is aware. It is almost equally surprising to find such a story published in "Rose El Youssef". (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:


Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary of Embassy

Contributors:

Political	-	CCStrong; DScott
Army	-	Colonel Wallace
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FROM : Amembassy Cairo

537
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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

January 13, 1961

REF :

JAN. 14 1961

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6. Arab League Foreign Ministers Meeting Now Scheduled for January 30.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Casablanca Conference.
2. French Referendum on Algeria.
3. UAR-West German Cultural Agreement.

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POLITICAL

1. The Casablanca Conference.

Although the Cairo press has given the Casablanca Conference wide acclaim in general terms as a turning point in the history of Africa and as the beginnings of cooperation between the militantly nationalist African states which will soon become the dominant political force on the continent, the aspect of the conference which has been treated with greatest interest locally is Nasser's success in having made the Palestine question a subject of discussion at the conference and of the joint communique. The African leaders' agreement on the resolution branding Israel as an "instrument of imperialism not only in the Middle East but in Africa and Asia as well" and calling on African states to resist the spread of its influence is seen as a decisive blow to Israel's ambitions to penetrate Africa commercially and politically. (See Psychological) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: Nasser's success in achieving agreement on an anti-Israel resolution can be expected to be followed up with vigorous diplomatic and propaganda efforts to get African states, including states not represented at the conference as well as those that were, to adopt specific measures against Israeli interests. (G-368) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Zulficar Sabri's Comments on Kennedy's Middle East Statements.

In the National Assembly on January 11 Deputy Foreign Minister Zulficar Sabri gave a prepared speech in which he commented on each of various statements on Israel and the Middle East made by President-elect Kennedy during the election campaign. In what was obviously a formal statement of official UAR policy, Sabri insisted on (a) the UAR's need to maintain military preparedness in the light of Israel's "aggressive intentions", (b) that Israel is not destined to survive as a nation, (c) that nothing can open the Suez Canal to Israeli shipping except Israel's implementation of those UN resolutions on Palestine to which she objects, (d) that the 1950 Tripartite Agreement and the Eisenhower Doctrine are dead, (e) that equality of treatment cannot be accorded American Zionists as they are "nothing more than agents for Israel" and (f) derided Ben Gurion's expressing his hope that the new US administration would be worthy of the confidence^{he} placed in it. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Sabri closed by recalling that Kennedy had not yet taken office and said that what is important is what he does after he takes over - implying that the UAR understood US politics and would not take campaign statements too seriously but placing the President-elect on notice that his actions after assuming office would be closely watched. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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3. Lumumba-Congolese Mission in Cairo.

In addition to publishing a communique announcing that it was setting up shop in Cairo (G-348, 1/4/61), the mission of the so-called Lumumba Government has made its presence known directly to the Embassy. A member of the mission, Mr. Antoine Awasi (Awazi), brought to the Embassy a letter addressed to the Ambassador, under cover of which was a copy of a telegram that had been sent to President-elect Kennedy seeking the support of the new Administration for the Lumumba Government (G-369, 1/13/61). Both communications were signed by Mr. Pierre Mulele on behalf of the so-called Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Antoine Gizenga. Mr. Mulele described himself as Minister of Education and Chief of the Diplomatic Mission to Cairo of "the legal government of the Republic of the Congo."

The Embassy has also been informed that Mr. Mulele granted an interview to a German correspondent in Cairo. Mr. Mulele expressed Stanleyville's interest in securing capital and goods from the outside world and maintaining "friendly relations". According to Mulele, Communist China has promised to open an embassy shortly in Stanleyville and start shipping goods. On the other hand, according to the correspondent, a call put through by Mr. Mulele's secretary to the West German Embassy in Cairo resulted in a polite rebuff.
(OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

4. National Assembly Begins New Session.

After a recess of nearly two months, the National Assembly began its winter session on January 9. A heavy load of legislative work (the Assembly must pass on the decree laws promulgated by the government during its recess as well as deal with a number of outstanding problems such as housing, rent control, property taxation) has been pushed aside for the moment in order to enable the Assembly to take a position on pressing international issues. So far the Assembly has adopted a resolution calling for measures to be taken against France in connection with Algeria (see below), has voted confidence in Nasser's performance at the Casablanca Conference, and has heard, in reply to a deputy's question, a lengthy statement by Deputy Foreign Minister Sabri replying to President-elect Kennedy's "pro-Israeli" campaign statements (see above). Initial signs in this second session indicate that the regime is going to use the Assembly more and more as a propaganda platform for official government statements, particularly on foreign policy. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. National Assembly and Trade Union Threats Against France.

The Executive Council of the Confederation of Arab Trade Unions at its January 10 meeting in Cairo announced that it had decided:

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(1) To boycott French ships, aircraft and goods; (2) To instruct the officers of CATU to prepare a report on the means of carrying out the boycott decision as soon as possible; and (3) To keep the Council meeting "in open session with a view to determining the zero hour for the boycott to come into force throughout the Arab world." The National Assembly, holding its first meeting of the new session after a two-month recess, also chimed in. The Assembly voted to adopt the decisions of the joint committee of its Executive during the Assembly's recess (G-351, Dec. 22) that called on Arab governments to take a number of measures against France. These latter included nationalizing French assets, liquidating NATO bases in any Arab country, and supporting the Provisional Algerian Government with arms and volunteers. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: It is not yet clear when these measures are to come into effect. These actions of the National Assembly and the trade unions were played up heavily by UAR propaganda media. (See Psychological). (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Arab League Foreign Ministers Meeting Now Scheduled for January 30.

According to the press the next session of the Arab League, originally scheduled to meet in Baghdad on January 28, has been postponed until January 30 at the request of Lebanon. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

Negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Casablanca Conference.

Frontpage coverage and considerable editorial space was devoted during the week to the Casablanca Conference, President Nasser's role therein and resolutions passed by the group. Cairo press tended to focus its attention upon a resolution which denounced Israel as "an instrument of imperialism and neo-colonialism in the Middle East and Africa." "Ahram" wrote: "Observers were unanimous in their opinions that Casablanca resolutions have spelled a big defeat for Israel and its aims in Africa."

Wider aspects of the Conference were underlined by numerous editorials: "The UAR is ready to stand up against any aggression launched against Africa," (Gumhuriya). "The UAR has become the focus of liberation for the entire continent of Africa ... Israel,

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the base of imperialism, is awaiting an opportunity to perpetrate aggression," (Akhbar El Yom). The papers have also noted a certain degree of criticism and hostility toward the Conference in the Western press and commented as follows: "Strong hostile campaign against the Conference ... proves that imperialist Zionist circles have been perturbed by the results achieved in Casablanca," (Akhbar). "Imperialistic radio stations have diffused false rumors about the conference, invented alleged difference of opinions between President Nasser and President Nkrumah ... Imperialists received a stunning blow when it became obvious that there was no foundation whatsoever for these rumors." (Gumhuriya)

Radio and television echoed the press, broadcast documentaries on the conference and depicted President Nasser's role as a dominant one. An impression was left with the UAR public that President Nasser served as a catalyst in the African situation and managed to introduce unity of purpose and re-establish UAR leadership in the African continent. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. French Referendum on Algeria.

The referendum has been labelled a "farce", a "counterfeit", and a political "defeat". The press and other media faithfully echoed the official line backing the FLN and condemning France and General De Gaulle. "The Algerians do not recognize the validity of the referendum simply because they have never recognized De Gaulle's project," said "Ahram". "What is the value of the referendum," asked "Gumhuriya", "when the people of the world saw on television how voters were forced to vote ... Let De Gaulle revel in the result of his rigged referendum ..." In another editorial the same paper said that "all indications point to France going on her knees, bowing the head to the fait accompli. The liberation army has full support of the Algerian people." The press also played up the resolutions passed by the UAR National Assembly and the Executive Council of the Federation of Arab Trade Unions calling for economic and political boycott of France. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. UAR-West German Cultural Agreement.

In a press conference organized by UAR Minister of Education Kamal El Din Hussein upon his return from West Germany, several highlights of a forthcoming UAR-West German cultural agreement were made public. They included:

- Several chairs for teaching of German language, and expansion of teaching of the language in secondary schools.

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- Establishment of a UAR Cultural Center in Germany
- Addition of seven new units to the National Research Center
- German technical aid in establishment of Arab Science Museum
- Establishment of UAR industrial schools for mining, ship-building, fishing
- Exchange of graduate students, youth groups and athletic teams
- Exchange of radio and TV programs and personnel

The press conference was told that about 2,500 UAR students are studying in universities and institutes in West Germany.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

Political - CCStrong; DScott; RJBarrett;
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USIS - ZNagorski *MS*

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.				January 20, 1961 R20	
REF :				JAN. 21 1961 AF-5 EUR-5	
9 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.			
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	1-24-61	OSD-2 NSIA-11 ARMY-35 NAVY-20 AIR-25			
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AIR

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2. UAR Purchase of Two Comet Aircraft.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

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3. US Aid to UAR.
4. Inaugural Address Publicity.
5. Television.
6. North Korean Publicity.

REPORTER				CONFIDENTIAL	
ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	ACTION TAKEN	DATE OF ACTION	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R	
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POLITICAL

1. UAR-UK Agreement on Exchange of Ambassadors and Consulates.

It has been confirmed by the British Mission in Cairo that the governments of the UAR and the UK have agreed to exchange Ambassadors and to permit the opening of certain consular posts in each others territories. The UAR has designated Mohamed Awad el-KOUNY, currently Ambassador to Moscow, as its new Ambassador to London and, according to the British Mission, was anxious to obtain agreement for him as quickly as possible. (The press of January 20 reports that agreement has been accorded.) The British have requested agreement for their Deputy Representative to the UN, Sir Harold Beeley, an expert on the Middle East.

The British have agreed that the UAR may open consulates anywhere in the UK, as well as in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Freetown (but not in Aden or British East and Central Africa.) They also have advised the UAR that the ruler of Kuwait agrees in principle to the opening of a UAR consulate in his capital. On its part, the UAR has agreed to the reopening of British consular posts in Alexandria and Damascus.
(OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: It is not clear to the British or ourselves why, after months of negotiations, Nasser suddenly decided to accept a British offer that fell considerably short of his initial demands. (It has always been understood that the UAR attached particular importance to opening consulates in British East Africa and Aden.) According to the British Mission, the factor which precipitated the resolution of the problem was a UAR request to send a Consul to Freetown immediately. The British said they would agree if the UAR would agree to the exchange of Ambassadors and the opening of a British Consulate in Alexandria. To their surprise, the UAR not only agreed, but added Damascus (possibly out of a desire not to offend the Northern Region).

It would appear that Nasser made his final decision after the Casablanca Conference, perhaps as an aspect of a stepped-up diplomatic offensive in West Africa. Sierra Leone is due for independence in about three months, and might be expected to join the "moderate" African camp. It may be that, after consultations in Casablanca, Nasser and other African leaders decided to make every possible effort to swing Sierra Leone into the militant African neutralists' camp. Nasser may also have attached importance to establishing representation in Freetown before Israel did so.

The above is, of course, highly speculative, and there may well be other factors. Whatever Nasser's motives, it would appear that his move would make it more difficult for the UK to take a "hard" line towards Nasser in the immediate future - a point not without significance for U.S. policy. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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2. National Union Elections in Gaza.

Arab

From January 15 to 19, elections for the "Palestine/National Union" were held in the Gaza Strip, with a heavy vote reported by the press. The main aim of the National Union, the military Governor General reportedly stated, is to plan the "return" to Palestine.

Prior to the elections, the UNRWA representative in Gaza warned all UNRWA local employees that running for elective office in the N.U. might result in a conflict of interests that could be cause for termination of their services with UNRWA. This stand, which is based on UN regulations forbidding political activity on the part of UN employees, evoked sharp reactions; from the Cairo press, which sees a conspiracy to sabotage the "Palestine entity"; from the Military Governor General, who insists the N.U. is non-political; from the employees, who demand that the Director's warning be rescinded.

The matter is now under study in the UN Secretariat and a ruling is expected shortly, but, in the meantime, UNRWA faces the unpleasant alternatives of possible discharge of some of its most valuable employees or of undermining the authority of its Gaza representative. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Arab League Meeting.

The UAR delegation to the Arab League meeting scheduled to meet in Baghdad on January 30 will be led by Foreign Minister Mahmoud Fawzi and will include the Director of the Arab Affairs Section of the Foreign Ministry, the UAR Permanent Delegate to the League, and the UAR Chargé d'Affaires in Baghdad.

While the agenda has not been announced officially, the press has indulged in its usual speculation and has reported that items to be discussed are: Palestine entity, Omani issue; Algerian question, Casablanca Conference, UNRWA, French atom tests, Israeli "penetration" of Africa, Israeli diversion of Jordan River, Israel's relations with Iran, Israel's "attempt" to obtain atomic weapons.

One paper reports that the Baghdad meeting will be followed by a conference of Chiefs of Staff of Arab countries, but the Embassy has so far been unable to obtain confirmation of the story. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Afro-Asian Women's Conference.

The Afro-Asian Women's Conference met in Cairo January 15-19. The sessions now adjourn to Damascus for several days. The Conference apparently did consider some reports on the economic, cultural and social problems of Afro-Asian women. But the stress in speeches, messages and resolutions was on political comments about the role of women "in the struggle for liberty and independence" and "against

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the imperialist policy of aggression and war." The final resolution of the Conference was entirely political and identified the "common enemies" of Afro-Asian women as "the colonialists and the imperialists headed by U.S. imperialists, the most dangerous of imperialists." (G-373, January 19 and G-377, January 20). (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The Conference was a far cry from the supposedly "non-political" meeting on women's problems that UAR personnel at the AA Secretariat had repeatedly contended was their intention. (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. National Assembly.

The National Assembly during the week devoted several long meetings to hearing answers to questions which had been addressed by Assembly members to various Government Ministers, mostly on detailed economic and agricultural problems in the Egyptian Region. The only items of more than local interest were: (1) the Assembly approved a report of its Arab Affairs Committee calling on the UAR Government to raise the "case of the Arab South" in the Arab League and the UN General Assembly; (2) the Assembly accepted an invitation from the Presidium of the USSR to send a delegation of from 8 to 10 Assembly members to visit the USSR sometime in 1961. A press item on January 19 said that the visit would probably take place in May and that Anwar Sadat, Speaker of the Assembly, would head the delegation. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Field Marshal Amer Inspects Armed Forces.

On January 17, Vice President and CINC of the UAR Armed Forces, Field Marshal Abdul Hakim AMER began a surprise inspection of units stationed in the Canal Zone and Sinai. Field Marshal Amer was accompanied by Lt. Gen. Ali Ali AMER, C/S of the Armed Forces, and Air Marshal Mohammed Sidky MAHMOUD, C/S of the Air Force. The inspection tour included units located at El Arish and Abu Aweighila in the Sinai. The inspection of units was preceded by a military conference and followed by the usual addresses to officers and men. Field Marshal Amer and party returned to Cairo on January 19. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Field Marshal Amer's speeches were carried by all local papers and were the usual "pep talk" for Arab unity. (CONFIDENTIAL)

AIR

1. Syrian Refusal to Allow Attache to Enter Northern Region.

The Damascus Area Air Traffic Control Center refused permission for

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the U.S. Air Attache aircraft to enter the Syrian Region as the aircraft was approaching the Lebanese-Syrian border, claiming no diplomatic clearance was in effect. Cairo Area Air Traffic Control Center had cleared the flight on the basis of Diplomatic Clearance Number 84/307/2 issued by the UAR Foreign Office on January 10, 1961. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: It is believed the UAR Foreign Office did not properly advise authorities in the Syrian Region. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. UAR Purchase of Two Comet Aircraft.

The UAR has announced the purchase of two additional Comet aircraft for the United Arab Airlines. This will comprise a fleet of five Comets and other aircraft as previously reported. (UNCLASSIFIED)

NAVY - Negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Truth Corps.

A new force to combat the "lies" spread by Zionists and imperialists was announced by Yehia Abou Bakr, Director General of Information. Called the "Army of Truth", the organization will operate primarily outside the UAR. Abou Bakr told the press he intends to establish relations with Arab citizens abroad as well as with other cooperative persons. These persons will be "soldiers" in the "Army of Truth", and will be kept supplied with information with which to repudiate unfavorable propaganda. A daily message in five languages will be sent to the "soldiers", giving them a condensed account of the political situation in the UAR. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Congo Brutality.

All Cairo dailies bannerlined stories on the alleged beating of Lumumba by Katanga police. Stories were similar in content, quoted nameless sources for the details of the beatings, and gave full credence to the still-unconfirmed accounts of Lumumba's arrival in Katanga. "Akhbar's" headline read: "Torture ... until death!" The stories made a point of the fact that the beatings occurred while UN soldiers looked on without interfering, although follow-up stories noted briefly that UN forces denied that the beatings took place. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. US Aid to UAR.

Cairo press gave excellent coverage in Arabic, English and French to the latest PL 480 agreement, signed Monday, January 16.

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Dailies published joint UAR-USIS release in full, describing the \$4.5 million vegetable oil and poultry purchase-loan agreement. Two major Arabic dailies, three French newspapers and the English-language "Gazette" also published pictures of the signing ceremony. "Gunhuriya" also published a short story on a \$1.5 million DLF loan for the UAR telecommunications system. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Inaugural Address Publicity.

As one part of the publicity program for the VOA broadcast of the inaugural address, USIS attempted to place an advertisement in "Ahram". The ad was rejected, and USIS officers were told by friends at the newspaper that the refusal came directly from Editor-in-Chief Hassanein Heikal. In a conversation with a USIS officer on the following day, Heikal volunteered the information that he had stopped the ad, saying that he was going to carry the information, free, on page one of "Ahram" on the day of the inauguration. No such information was carried. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Heikal apparently applies a type of double standard to such advertising; he does not hesitate to accept ChiCom advertising on their various "exhibits" in Cairo. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

5. Television.

UAR-TV presented what purported to be a background program on US-Cuban relationships. Highlights of the program included description of: US economic pressures against Cuba; intimidation attempts by US fleet in the Caribbean; terrorism by bomb explosions in Cuba as a prelude to imminent U.S. invasion; Cuban mobilization to repel US aggression.

The UAR and Cuba have concluded a television exchange agreement, according to Ahmad Said, Voice of Arabs Radio director, who has just returned from Cuba. The two countries will exchange television films, and an Arab film festival will be held in Cuba showing resistance against feudalism and imperialism.

A group of UAR radio and television officials was scheduled to leave Cairo this week for Europe and the United States to purchase electronics equipment and arrange for the expansion of UAR manufacture of radio and TV sets. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. North Korean Publicity.

The Korea News, a 20-page magazine published by the Korean Central News Agency in Pyongyang, was distributed at the Afro-Asian Women's Conference in Cairo. The bulk of the magazine's content is devoted to

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attacks on US imperialism in South Korea and elsewhere. The magazine was one of those included in the Conference display at the Gezira Youth Center. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

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 MSerner *MS.*
Army - Colonel Wallace
Air - Colonel Bechtel
USIS - RHelgerson

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AIR

1. U.S. Air Force C-124s Fly UAR Rice to Congo.

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1. President Kennedy's Pronouncements assigned to.
2. Louis Armstrong in Cairo action assigned to.
3. U.S. Relief For Fire Victims in Yemen. action assigned to.
4. U.S. Atrocities in Cuba. action assigned to.
5. Bolshoi Ballet Troupe.

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POLITICAL

1. UAR and the Congo.

UAR policy related to the Congo had several different aspects during the week. Rice donated by the UAR was flown to the Congo as part of the UN foodlift. The first group of UAR troops being brought back from the Congo arrived in Cairo on February 1. (In both cases, the fact that American aircraft were being used was acknowledged, although not given any emphasis.) At the same time, the UAR is condoning, if not encouraging, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Secretariat in the latter's continuing extremist attitude toward the Congo. (See Week 4) The Secretariat has now announced "Congo Solidarity and Struggle Week" beginning February 5. It has called on all national solidarity committees to "collect contributions for aid to the combatants in the Congo in their struggles against imperialism." The National Union, jointly with the Secretariat, will do its part by holding a "popular rally" in Cairo. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: A number of clues hint that something is afoot at the Secretariat. The Embassy's contacts there, who are usually quite garrulous, are close-mouthed about the activities of the Secretariat's International Committee to Aid the Congo, and they are obviously working considerably longer hours than customary at the Secretariat. Mursi Saad El Din, Technical Secretary at the Secretariat, told a Canadian Embassy officer that the Committee was taking "very strong action" and added the comment that while the UAR government's official position was more restrained than the AA Council's resolutions on the Congo, the latter "perhaps represented what the UAR would really like to see happen." The Embassy has also noted that according to Pravda, the chairman of the Soviet Red Cross-Red Crescent asked the Sudan on January 28 to permit the transit to pro-Lumumba areas of the Congo of relief supplies (food, medicine, 20 trucks). Help from "private organizations" may be the latest Soviet-inspired gimmick to try to get material through the Sudan to the Gizenga regime. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Nasser Continues Meetings with Ministers.

Nasser has continued to hold daily meetings with his cabinet, including most of the Ministers from both regions. According to the press, the meetings have been concerned exclusively with a thorough review of the UAR's development plan in both regions. However, there have been rumors in both Cairo and Damascus that the meetings will result in a number of cabinet changes. Press treatment has given particular play to the attention being devoted to Syrian development projects, probably as a deliberate effort toward countering reports about Syria's adverse economic situation, particularly since the time for the annual build-up of the Egyptian-Syrian union is drawing near (February 22 is Union Day). (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Reaction to Resumption of Tunisian Arab League Activities.

News of Tunisia's return to the Arab League fold was not greeted by the Cairo press with unrestrained joy; press attacks on Bourguiba were stepped up,

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rather than diminished. One editorial commentator stated that, whether Iraq or Jordan were responsible for Tunisian attendance at the meeting, little credit was reflected on Tunis, while another referred to Bourguiba's "imperialist mentality". (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Perhaps Cairo prefers the status quo ante, with Bourguiba isolated from the League, to the present situation where discussion of Tunisia's difficulties with the UAR might lead to unwelcome support for Bourguiba among other member states. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

4. Arab Lawyers Conference Opens.

The Sixth Conference of Arab Lawyers opened February 1 in Cairo, with an estimated 1500 lawyers from various Arab countries attending. The inaugural session was opened by President Nasser, whose address, in classical Arabic, was relatively free of rabble-rousing oratory, although it contained the usual attacks on imperialism. Even the recent delivery of British Centurion tanks to Israel brought only a restrained comment that Israel is a bridgehead of imperialism and Zionism, and is supported by imperialists.

The Conference, which is expected to last about one week, reportedly will discuss the legal aspects of the closing of the Suez Canal to Israeli shipping by the UAR; Israel's diversion of the Jordan River; the Palestine issue; and unification of laws of Arab countries. One prominent Cairo lawyer described the Conference as "pointless", remarking that the resolution to be passed had been decided on and approved by the UAR weeks ago. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. Haikal Article on UAR's Positive Neutrality.

In an article in "Ahram", on January 27, editor Haikal, whose writings frequently reflect Nasser's most recent thinking on foreign policy matters, speculated as to whether the UAR would give up its policy of positive neutrality if necessary to meet the situation posed by Israel's possible acquisition of the atom bomb. Haikal's conclusion is in the negative. "Positive neutrality", he said, "is not merely a maneuver or a tactic... it is the expression of historic political and social realities." The only time when positive neutrality will be given up is when the big powers abandon the cold war and peaceful coexistence is established on a firm basis. Asking himself what will happen if it is proved that Israel is trying to manufacture the atom bomb, Haikal answered: "I do not know the answer to this question, but I do know that it would be sheer naivness, at best, to appeal to the US to exert pressure on Israel to stop manufacturing the atom bomb... At any rate, only Arab realities and the potentialities of these realities can provide a forceful answer to this question." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Haikal's comments on what the UAR would do if Israel were working on a bomb are no doubt deliberately obscure. They contain the usual shrewd mixture of threat ("a forceful answer") and non-commitment. (G-390). (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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MILITARY

ARMY-AIR

1. UAR Congo Battalion Begins Repatriation.

Repatriation of the UAR contingent in the Congo began on the evening of February 1. The unit, a paratroop battalion of Syrians and Egyptians, had been stationed in the N.W. corner of the Congo as part of the UN Command since August 1960. All personnel returned to date have been wearing the UN blue berets and carrying individual automatic weapons. (It is reported that all unexpended ammunition and equipment, excepting twenty 1/4 ton trucks, will be returned to the UAR.) The operation is expected to be completed on February 3. The battalion is being returned via C-130 aircraft of the 322nd Air Division, Evreux, France. These aircraft were reported in the press as operating under UN auspices; however, photographs in the newspapers conspicuously revealed the large American star insignia on the sides of the aircraft. (UNCLASSIFIED)

AIR

1. U.S. Air Force C-124s Fly UAR Rice to Congo.

On January 29 Air Force C-124 Globemaster aircraft from McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, began to land at Cairo International Airport to carry 125,000 kilograms of rice to the Congo. The rice is a gift by the United Arab Republic to starving Congolese displaced persons. Cairo newspapers "Akhbar" and "Ahram" noted in both headline and text that these were USAF aircraft. (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. President Kennedy's Pronouncements.

The Inaugural Address and State of the Union message were greeted by UAR media with some optimism. "Can the new President," asked "Gumhuriya", "resist capitalist monopolies controlled by Zionists who in turn control the Pentagon? Indications point to the fact that he can stand up to this challenge. This is evidenced by the Soviet Union's tribute to him manifested in the release of the two American fliers ... Kennedy is also commended for his statement on Laos in which he said that America hopes Laos becomes an independent nation aligned to neither East or West." Cairo Radio followed the same line of cautious reasoning and cited Kennedy's promise that no more spy planes will be permitted to fly over the Soviet Union as evidence of the new President's willingness to contribute toward relaxation of tension.

Much cooler treatment greeted the State of the Union message. "America was bankrupt" according to its President, wrote El Nashashibi in "Gumhuriya".

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The writer, citing Kennedy's preoccupation with people in Laos, Congo and Latin America, reproaches him for not mentioning the Arab refugees: "victims of your predecessor, friend and counsellor, Harry S. Truman." Ahmed Baha El Din in "Akhbar" concluded that Kennedy wants more recognition from his allies, more cooperation from them, unless the United States secures this cooperation "she might try to settle her differences with the USSR on a bi-lateral basis." (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Louis Armstrong in Cairo.

With one notable exception (afternoon "Al Masaa") Cairo papers gave Louis Armstrong and his team friendly treatment. Interviews with Armstrong, mixed with favorable comments on his two appearances, were published in dailies and weeklies. Journalists and music critics flocked to a press reception, extended their hospitality to Louis and his wife, and considered his visit one of the highlights of US-UAR cultural exchange programs. (UNCLASSIFIED)

"Al Masaa", for reasons difficult to explain, started off by accusing Armstrong of being a "tool of Zionism", a friend of Tshombe, and a man who has a political axe to grind. After the two performances "Al Masaa" printed a review asserting that "deafening, loud music chased people away ...". Empty seats and a house full of foreigners were the only symptoms of Armstrong's popularity, concluded the paper. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Armstrong played in two motion picture theaters, Kasr El Nil (capacity 1,400) and Rivoli (capacity 2,000) with every single seat sold and blackmarket tickets selling for three times the original price. Both houses were so packed that people stood along the aisles during the two performances. Eighty percent of those present were Egyptians, including a large number of students. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. U.S. Relief For Fire Victims in Yemen.

"Ahram" was the only paper which picked up - almost verbatim - another USIS release related to an emergency relief operation undertaken by the US. Foodstuffs and medical supplies were flown to the Yemeni city of Hodeida where 600 homes were destroyed by fire. "Ahram" pointed out that the US Air Force flew in 3000 blankets and that a group of American doctors was flown to Yemen from Asmara to render medical assistance. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. U.S. Atrocities in Cuba.

Under the title "Cuba-US Relations in Pictures", an official weekly magazine of the UAR Armed Forces, "Al Kuwat Al Mussalaha", published a series of photographs supplied by the Cuban Ambassador illustrating tortures to which free Cubans have been subjected by "imperialists". While captions refrained from mentioning America, the overall title placed

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the guilt at the U.S. doorstep. The picture story showed blinded children, soldiers with daggers in their bodies, hands without fingernails, and ended with a picture of free Cubans marching under their own national flag which "triumphed over imperialism." (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. Bolshoi Ballet Troupe.

The Bolshoi Theater with Ulanova as its top star opened a month season at the Cairo Opera. A special performance was held for the President and members of the Cabinet. The Opera House is sold out for the entire period. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

MS.

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Army	-	Lt. Col. Joy
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OSD-2 NSA-4

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1. Airlift of Rice to Congo.

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2. Kennedy's Foreign Policy Plans Hailed.
3. Israel and the Suez Canal.
4. US-Financed Institute "Distorts the Koran".
5. African Broadcasting Union.
6. UAR Students Abroad.

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POLITICAL

1. The UAR and the Congo.

The UAR Government has been informed of the new U.S. proposals on the Congo. What the UAR's response will be is not yet clear, but there are indications that the initial reaction has been one of considerable interest. Nasser is known to be out of town, taking a short rest after his recent intensive round of Cabinet meetings. Particularly noticeable has been the lack of editorial comment on the American proposals; the abusive propaganda attacks on the United States also seem to have been suspended in recent days. (See Psychological). The impression given is that the UAR is carefully considering the new U.S. proposals and avoiding taking a public position for the time being. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Release of James Zarb.

Recent pro-Arab statements by historian Arnold Toynbee in Canada, followed by the debate which took place in Montreal on January 31 between Toynbee and Israeli Ambassador Herzog, were hailed in Cairo as a triumph for the Arabs and a blow to Israel. As a gesture of appreciation for Dr. Toynbee's "pro-Arab stand", the Government of the UAR released from prison James Zarb, a British subject, who had served 4 years of a ten-year prison sentence for espionage.

In a further tribute to Dr. Toynbee, Alexandria University is reportedly considering bestowing on him an honorary doctorate, while the press has praised him as an impartial historian whose "words of truth" have caused a severe setback to Israel. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: British Embassy officials believe that Zarb's release had been planned for some time and depended only on finding a suitable pretext, now furnished by Toynbee's pro-Arab statements. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. Arab Lawyers Conference.

The Conference of Arab Lawyers, held in Cairo from February 1 to February 6, ended with a number of routine resolutions: support for the Algerian cause, condemnation of Israel for its attempt to divert the Jordan River, support for UAR's denial of Suez Canal to Israel, call for the stoppage of atomic tests, etc. One of the resolutions declared the Gulf of Aqaba to be Arab and recommended that Arab states take action to prevent its use by Israel. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: More shadow than substance. One prominent Cairo lawyer informed an Embassy officer that the "resolutions" were drafted and approved (by the UAR) long before the conference opened; another stated he had attended only the opening day's meeting, since he had better ways to use his time than "that foolishness". (CONFIDENTIAL)

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From Amembassy Cairo

4. National Assembly and Constitutional Committee Adjourn Until April 1.

On February 9 the National Assembly held the last meeting of its present session and adjourned until April 1, when its third session is scheduled to open. In spite of earlier reports that the April session would be held in Damascus, it now seems certain, according to several Assembly members and officials, that the Assembly will meet in Cairo. The change appears to have been dictated primarily by logistics - the next session will be concerned mainly with the budget, and the Assembly's work will require close and constant contact with Ministries whose staffs are located in Cairo. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Immediately before adjourning, the Assembly constituted a committee of 90 members to draw up a draft for the UAR's new Constitution. The committee includes members from both regions and has a high proportion of lawyers and professional men. According to the press, the committee will not begin its work until the Assembly's new session begins in April. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. UAR Congo Battalion Repatriated.

Colonel Saad al-Din al-SHAZLY, Commander of the UAR Congo Battalion, arrived in Cairo with the third group of UAR paratroopers returning home. The fourth and final group returned on February 4. Upon his arrival, Colonel al-Shazly told newsmen that only a small UN force was now left in the equatorial area of the Congo, where the UAR battalion had been on duty. Speaking about "foreign intervention", Colonel al-Shazly said that help to Mobutu had become known to all and that arms "made in USA" were pouring into the Congo for the Mobutu forces. Colonel al-Shazly said that charges lodged against the UAR for allegedly flying supplies into the Congo for pro-Lumumba forces had no foundation, that the UAR plane involved had carried mail for the battalion plus a technical group to "salvage parts" of a UAR plane which had had an accident in the Congo. (UNCLASSIFIED)

AIR

1. Airlift of Rice: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

The United States Air Force 322nd Air Division completed the airlift of 125,000 kilograms of rice from Cairo to the Congo on February 7, 1961. (UNCLASSIFIED)

NAVY - Negative.

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From Amembassy Cairo

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. U.S. Plan for the Congo Discussed.

Against the background of the "Congo Week" demonstrations staged by the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference, Cairo press held its fire and gave the new American approach to the Congo the benefit of the doubt. Departing from their previously highly critical stands, two principal papers expressed their hope that the new American plan may help to ease the Congolese crisis. "Gumhuriya" wrote: "We earnestly hope that Kennedy may inaugurate his Presidential term with a gesture which may induce people to look upon him as a new type of a leader, with a new mentality ... All peace-loving nations cherish a hope that ... the U.S. President will start new consultations from which Lumumba will not be excluded." "Akhbar" a day later added: "If an American-Soviet agreement on the Congo question were reached then all the world would utter a sigh of relief." Shortly after these comments were published, all media reported that President Nasser received the American Ambassador and that one of the principal items on their agenda was the Congo situation.

The only inflammatory item published during the week in reference to the Congo was Ahmed Baha El Din's assertion that an American airline (U.S. Seven Seas Airways) has been engaged in transporting French jet planes ("Mystere") to reinforce Tshombe's forces in Katanga. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Kennedy's Foreign Policy Plans Hailed.

In a lead editorial published in this week's "Al Mussawar", an illustrated magazine (Dar Al Hilal Publishing House), Fikri Abaza, editor-in-chief, expressed unreserved optimism over the new era in the American foreign policy. "A speedy rapprochement between the US and the USSR will certainly result in termination of the cold war; Castro now can be assured that no danger of an imminent US invasion exists; U.S.-Chinese relations have also somewhat improved after Kennedy's declaration welcoming a neutral Laos regime. Kennedy boldly takes the initiative to liquidate a number of U.S. military bases overseas ... and he took the first step to contact Soviet officials in connection with the Congo trying to avoid another type of a Korean war."

In order to live up to our expectations, Fikri Abaza added, Kennedy "has to take further steps in the Middle East by implementing the UN resolutions regarding the internationalization of Jerusalem and return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland." (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Israel and the Suez Canal.

"Rose El Youssef" received from its "usually reliable" sources an indication that another Israeli attempt to force a show-down on the Suez Canal passage will be made shortly. Two Swiss ships are to be used and

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From Embassy Cairo

the purpose of the exercise will be, according to the weekly, to remind President Kennedy of his campaign promises, to divert world's attention from internal Israel crises, and to re-open an anti-UAR campaign. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. US-Financed Institute "Distorts the Koran".

Weekly "Akher Saa", supported by "Al-Shubban Al-Muslimeen", a magazine published by the Young Moslems Association, denounced the US-financed Afro-Asian Institute, located in Israel, for allegedly trying to disseminate a distorted version of the Koran and use it throughout Africa as an anti-Arab weapon. The two periodicals then outlined counter-measures which the UAR intends to take.

Al Azhar University, in view of the Israeli plot, decided to send 140 Al Azhar-trained teachers to Arab and Afro-Asian countries; to underwrite all expenses for Moslem missionaries working throughout Africa and to make room for an additional 2,000 Africans at the Moslem Mission City, Abbaseya. At this time there are 3,000 Africans enrolled in the missionary courses there. To facilitate Al Azhar's task, the Minister of Waqfs decided to award 1,000 African scholarships for Koran study. Scholarships are all inclusive: tuition, board and room. The Minister also declared, according to "Al Shubban", that 20,000 correct copies of the Koran will be distributed among those African countries which received distorted copies from Israel. Together with the Koran, an appropriate number of copies of the Talmud are to be distributed in order to "publicize thoroughly falsehoods and errors of the Talmud compared to the true facts of the Koran." (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. African Broadcasting Union.

Minister of State HATEM announced at the National Assembly the establishment of the African Broadcasting Union in order to coordinate broadcasting services of the newly independent African countries. Dr. Hatem outlined the role of the UAR Broadcasting Service, "the second biggest among 90 world broadcasting services", as (a) helping the Africans to combat imperialism and Zionism, (b) to help in economic progress, (c) to make a united effort for the cause of liberation. Hatem's announcement received a certain amount of editorial comment. "Akhbar" stated: "UAR is the foremost among (these voices calling for continuing struggle) ... broadcasts addressing Africans thanks to its potentialities and well organized system. UAR broadcasts are heard by millions of Africans ... conveying to them news and urging them to uphold self-respect and dignity." "Egyptian Gazette" welcomed the move and restated the UAR case: "In such a program of coordination (of radio services) the UAR with its ten broadcasting stations carrying two hundred program-hours a day has a vital role to play, and it is fitting in view of President Nasser's assertion that the UAR is a base and vanguard of the liberation movement in Africa, that its fine broadcasting facilities should be used for the benefit of the continent." (UNCLASSIFIED)

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6. UAR Students Abroad.

In a two-page spread, weekly "Akher Saa" reviewed the record of the UAR students studying abroad. The weekly paid a special tribute to "spectacular" successes achieved by Egyptian girls majoring in atomic sciences in the United States.

The magazine quoted the Secretary General of the UAR Higher Council of Sciences as saying that the UAR despatched annually 150 of its leading scientists abroad. Out of that number 60 go to the Soviet Union and the rest to other countries. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

Political - DScott, RJBarrett, MSterner
Army - Lt. Col. Joy
Air - Colonel Bechtel
USIS - ZNagorski

Distribution:

Accra, Addis Ababa, Aden, Aleppo, Alexandria, Amman, Ankara, Athens, Baghdad, Beirut, Benghazi, Conakry, Damascus, Dhahran, Jerusalem, Jidda, Karachi, Khartoum, London, Leopoldville, Moscow, Munich PRU (2), New Delhi, Paris, Port Said, Rabat, Rome, Taiz, Tehran, Tel Aviv, Tripoli, Tunis, Cmdr 2nd Air Div. Dhahran; CINCUSAFE (2); CINCNELM; CONFAIRELM; FICELM; USDOSOUTH; ARMA Tel Aviv; Chairman MELG, Beirut; CINCUSAREUR; COMIDEST; COMSIXTHFT.

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

786B.00(W)/2-1761

FROM : Amembassy CAIRO

657
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 17, 1961
DATE

REF :

FEB. 25 1961

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION REC'D	DEPT. IN F O OTHER
9 2-28-61	1NR-10	RAIR-2 Ref-1 NEA-4 CU-5 ICA-11 Jo-2 OSD-2 NSI-A-10 ARMY-35 NAVY-20 AIR-25

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 7

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 - a. Reaction to Lumumba's Death.
 - b. Demonstrations.
 - c. Congo Rally.
 - d. "Recognition" of Gizenga Regime.
 - e. Accra Conference of Casablanca Powers' Foreign Ministers.
2. "Palestine Offices" Hold Meeting in Cairo.

AIR

1. Airlift of Milk to Hodeida.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Aftermath Lumumba's Death.
2. Press Reaction to Secretary Rusk's Statement.
3. Hagsanein Haikal Attacks America.

Action Assigned: *Adm. Sec.*
 Action Taken: *Adm. Sec.*
 Date of Action: *2 March 61*
 Action Office Symbol: *160166B*
 Name of Officer: *Adm. Sec.*
 Direction to DC/R: *file*

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From Amembassy Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Congo.

a. Reaction to Lumumba's Death.

Predictably, the confirmation of Lumumba's death has received massive propaganda treatment as a heinous crime. An official statement (Feb 13) by Minister of State HATEM labeled it murder for which the "imperialist authorities" and the "UN officials in the Congo" are responsible. (Embtel 1394, Feb 14) Belgium and Hammarskjold have been intemperately attacked, and the latter's resignation has been repeatedly demanded. After some initial hesitation, the United States has been added to the targets and brought under heavy attack. An obviously inspired MEN statement (Feb 17) attacked Secretary Rusk for "threatening the UAR" in his alleged remarks to a Congressional committee (Embtel 1419, Feb 17). "Ahram" editor HAIKAL, often an unofficial spokesman for Nasser, prominently blamed the US as one of those responsible for what happened in the Congo; he claimed that American intelligence planned Mobutu's coup, and he broadly insinuated that the new US proposals on the Congo were a deception based on alleged knowledge that Lumumba was already dead (Embtel 1418, Feb 17). (See also PSYCHOLOGICAL) (CONFIDENTIAL)

b. Demonstrations.

On February 15 demonstrations over Lumumba's death were directed at the Belgian and American Embassies and the UN offices. A crowd of perhaps 200 Africans stoned the Embassy, breaking many windows, overturning and burning two official jeep-station wagons, and breaking the windows of several private cars. The crowd, reports conflict as to whether entirely African or mixed Egyptian-African, broke into the Belgian Embassy, wrecked it, and set it on fire. The nearby UN Information Office was also stoned and many windows broken. (Embtel 1400, Feb 15) (CONFIDENTIAL)

The demonstrations showed obvious signs of organization. UAR TV personnel stood by in front of the Belgian and American Embassies hours in advance. An Information Department sound-truck followed the mob inciting it to action*. Large pictures of Mr. Lumumba were on hand and demonstrators plastered them on the walls of the two Embassies. According to one source, early that morning residents of a district adjoining the Belgian Embassy were warned to keep their cars off the street because "the Embassy will be burned". Under the circumstances, police protection was clearly inadequate. Although police were out in force they made no attempt to divert demonstrators and their efforts to deter the demonstrators were inept and ineffectual. The riot squad was put in action after the damage was done. At the Belgian Embassy the police hardly even offered token resistance, and eyewitnesses go so far as to allege that police assisted in the destruction and looting of the premises. (CONFIDENTIAL)

* While no direct instructions to the mob were heard, the emotional tone of the harangue accentuated the excitement of the crowd.

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The Embassy heard from one reliable source that the following day Minister Hatem summoned his key personnel to express his disappointment at the manner in which the demonstrations were staged. "We were discovered by everybody", he reportedly stated. Some of the UAR officials admitted that the television newsreel screened by UAR TV on the day of the riots could be used to indict the police for non-interference. (CONFIDENTIAL)

c. Congo Rally.

The National Union and the Afro-Asian Solidarity Secretariat sponsored a "Congo Rally" on February 15. It had originally been scheduled as the Cairo feature of "Congo Week" proclaimed by the Secretariat on February 5 to organize contributions for the Stanleyville Regime. The timing of the event, through accident or fore-knowledge, allowed it to make full capital of Lumumba's death. The speeches, all of which were broadcast on the radio, were delivered in a highly emotional manner and referred repeatedly to Lumumba's death as the beginning of a great crusade against the imperialists in Africa. The UAR lent its prestige with a featured address by Kamal El Din HUSSEIN, Minister of Education and close Nasser associate. The resolutions condemned Belgium, the UN, and the US; demanded that Hammarskjold be dismissed and "brought to trial"; and urged recognition and aid for the Gizenga regime. (UNCLASSIFIED)

d. "Recognition" of Gizenga Regime.

All papers on February 13 announced an agreement between UAR authorities and Congolese Education Minister MULELE, representing "the legitimate Congo Government", under which the latter was opening an "office" in Cairo, and the UAR will open an "office" in Stanleyville. The Cairo press on February 15 stated that President Nasser had sent letters to the Casablanca powers plus India, Indonesia and Yugoslavia informing them that the UAR recognized the Gizenga regime as the legal and national government of the Congo. Since then the Cairo press has featured reports that other governments have also recognized the Gizenga regime. The Embassy has noted that the word "office" and not "embassy" has been used in these announcements. It is not yet clear, and perhaps not yet decided, whether the UAR intends to have full diplomatic relations with Stanleyville in the sense of a formal exchange of Ambassadors. Actual establishment of UAR personnel in Stanleyville would, of course, be a significant step; but there is no announcement as yet of any specific UAR personnel being in Stanleyville to operate an office there. The seemingly careful choice of words appears to imply, at least to date, that the UAR's intent is to confer on Gizenga all the legality that they formerly ascribed to Lumumba, in other words to specify that they now consider Gizenga the only "legal Government" of the whole of the Congo. (CONFIDENTIAL)

e. Accra Conference of Casablanca Powers' Foreign Ministers.

A Foreign Ministry official confirmed press reports that Foreign Minister Fawzi would leave February 17 for Accra to attend the meeting of

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From Embassy Cairo

foreign ministers of the Casablanca powers called by Nkrumah to consider the Congo situation. According to the press, Fawzi consulted with Nasser before departing. He is accompanied by Murad GHALEB, ex-UAR Ambassador to the Congo and Ambassador-designate to Moscow. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. "Palestine Offices" Hold Meeting in Cairo.

Under the auspices of the Arab League, a conference on Palestine is currently being held in Cairo, attended by the heads of the "Palestine Offices" of all Arab countries, with the exception of Tunisia, as well as the directors of various offices dealing with the boycott of Israel. The Conference is apparently designed to coordinate and strengthen Arab policy toward Israel, but little publicity has been given the meeting and its aims are not altogether clear. However, the Saudi Arabian representative, Tahir RADWAN, is quoted in the press as saying that the Palestine offices constitute a "new basic system for serving the Palestine case".

To date, the conference has formed three subcommittees which are charged with (1) coordinating the work of the Palestine offices; (2) observing Zionist activities abroad and attempting to stop Jewish immigration to Palestine; (3) observing UNRWA's efforts to resettle the refugees or make them emigrate.

The last item, according to the Arab League representative at the conference, stems from paragraph 95 of the UNRWA's Director's 1960 Annual Report to the UN, which discusses UNRWA's financial assistance to refugees wishing to resettle in other than Arab countries. While the cited paragraph underlines the fact that the Agency "takes no initiative in encouraging emigration overseas" the Arab reaction, as expected, is that there is dirty work at the cross roads and that UNRWA is plotting to resettle the refugees. According to the Arab League representative, however, there is no truth in press reports of a letter from the UAR to the conference, accusing UNRWA of helping the refugees to leave, of buying up their ration cards, and of attempting to "evade its responsibilities".

The Conference is expected to end about February 19. (CONFIDENTIAL)

MILITARY

ARMY - Negative.

AIR

1. Airlift of Milk to Hodeida.

On February 10 the Embassy Air Attache aircraft completed an airlift of 780 pounds of milk for the fire victims of Hodeida. This was the balance of milk allocated in Cairo. (UNCLASSIFIED)

NAVY - Negative.

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From Amembassy Cairo

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Aftermath Lumumba's Death.

The touch of a professional stage director was in evidence throughout this week's events.

Imperialists were blamed for Mr. Lumumba's death; they were defined by media as "Belgians, United Nations and others." For weeks Americans have been included within the broad interpretation of "imperialist" powers. Local African offices, financed and encouraged by the UAR Government, openly placed the blame for Congolese events on the US. Minister of State Hatem issued a statement upon the death of Lumumba holding "Western imperialism" and the UN authorities responsible. "Gumhuriya" wrote: "Lumumba's blood falls on world imperialism, on the heads of the United Nations' administration." "Ahram": "African countries will not let the crime pass without identifying the criminals and punishing them." "Akhbar": "America, Belgium, and Hammarskjold delivered Lumumba into the hands of his murderers." (UNCLASSIFIED)

On the eve of "Congo Day", UAR-TV featured an hour-long documentary on Patrice Lumumba. The program consisted mostly of pictures taken during Lumumba's arrest and imprisonment. Cairo Radio and Voice of the Arabs beamed commentaries and features similarly slanted. On the day of public manifestations all papers appeared with headlines deploring Lumumba's murder and once again pointing an accusing finger at the West and the United Nations. Paid ads were published by industrial firms paying tribute to Lumumba's memory. (UNCLASSIFIED) (See also POLITICAL)

2. Press Reaction to Secretary Rusk's Statement.

All papers frontpaged as "threatening the UAR" Secretary Rusk's statement to a Congressional committee. "Gumhuriya's" 8-column headline read: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THREATENS US. "Akhbar's" commentators labeled Rusk's words as "parroting Dulles' and Herter's old accusations." All papers printed official comments written by a political editor of MEN in which he stated: "Our past experience with America is enough to drive home the argument to Rusk that the United Arab Republic resolves to maintain its dignity and to take no notice whatsoever of intimidation." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Rusk's statement carried by UPI caused considerable consternation among newsmen. Many called USIS officers expressing their concern and anxiously asking whether the stoning of USIS had anything to do with the Secretary's remarks. Several tried to minimize the Congo Day's events and cited disturbances at the UN Headquarters as another example of "popular indignation". (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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3. Hassanein Haikal Attacks America.

On February 17, two days after the "Congo Day" demonstrations, in a major editorial Hassanein Haikal, editor of "Ahram" and unofficial spokesman of President Nasser, attacked imperialism, the UN and the United States in particular. Discussing racial discrimination in Africa, establishment of military bases, exploiting mineral resources and agricultural wealth, Haikal concluded that imperialism succeeded in delivering a blow to freedom in Africa by murdering Lumumba. Who is responsible? "UN Secretariat and the United States ... Washington was the principal instrument of pressure on the UN Headquarters in New York. US was the main financial supporter of Mobutu - I have heard this from a prominent delegate of a Western nation in New York." Haikal claimed that the American "deception" has not ended with the change of administration. He wondered whether the US knew that Lumumba was dead when it proposed its new Congo plan: "I did not believe any big power would reach this state in its political maneuver." Haikal's attack mentioned two African countries - Sudan and Ethiopia - whose "troops are being used by Mobutu." (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

Political - DScott, RJBarrett
Air - Colonel Bechtel
USIS - ZNagorski

148.

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786 B. 00 (W) / 2-2461

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy CAIRO

682
DESP. NO.

February 24, 1961

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE

REF :

FEB. 25 1961

9 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION REC'D	DEPT. IN F O THER
	1NR-10	RM/R-2 Rep-1 NEA-4 CU-5 AF-5 EKR-5
	2-2861	USIA-11 OSD-2 ARMY-35 NAVY-20 AIR-25

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 8

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3. Russian and Yugoslav Guests at UAR Day Celebration in Syria.
4. Inter-Arab Propaganda War Continues.

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1. USIS Information Officer Detained.
2. US Responsible for Lumumba Murder.
3. Ugly American.
4. US Prestige.
5. Arab Propaganda To Counter Israeli Efforts.

Action Assigned: Abbott
Action Taken: Marked
Date of Action: 1 March 61
Action Office Symbol: 160/CGO
Name of Officer: Mueller
Direction to DC/R: full

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REPORTER

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Desp. No. 682
From Amembassy Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Congo.

The UAR propaganda machine turned full blast on the United States as responsible for Lumumba's death and all the evils in the Congo. The HAIKAL article of February 17 and the MEN reaction to Secretary Rusk's alleged remarks (described in the preceding Weeka) turned out to be but preliminaries. The weekend brought screaming headlines: "America is Responsible for the Crime". All papers featured a statement attributed to "responsible circles in Cairo" that contended, with alleged details, that "from the first day of Congolese independence American imperialism planned to get rid of Lumumba and liquidate all nationalist elements." (Embtel 1425, Feb 18). The identity of language and treatment made clear the official high-level inspiration. The anti-American campaign was so virulent as to produce an extremely sensitive Regime reaction to a USIS pamphlet publishing extracts of comments on the Congo by President Kennedy, Ambassador Stevenson and Mr. Hammarskjold; the Regime not only went to the extent of actually detaining for ten hours an Embassy Attache with diplomatic status, but also gave the incident sensational and highly distorted press coverage. (See also Psychological) (CONFIDENTIAL)

The ostentatious celebration of the third anniversary of the UAR and Nasser's annual trip to Syria on this occasion replaced the Congo as the main news story. Nasser has given the Congo secondary treatment in his current series of speeches in Syria. In one talk he repeated the allegation that the US' support of Kasavubu makes it an accomplice in the death of Lumumba. In a principal speech on UAR Day itself (Feb 22) Nasser stressed that the UN must implement forcefully the new mandate given it in the UAR co-sponsored resolution, or else its failure "will be a nail in its coffin". He also emphasized that the Congo situation was "the UAR's battle" because the failure of any small country to achieve and retain independence was a diminishment of the UAR's security. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Simultaneously, the Regime has: made an inflammatory domestic propaganda issue of the Congo; in New York, co-sponsored a widely supported and reasonable UN resolution; at the Accra conference of Casablanca power foreign ministers adhered to views that go considerably further, particularly in terms of support for the Gizenga Government, than the UN resolution just backed by the UAR. Such seemingly contradictory behavior may represent the UAR's effort to maintain maximum freedom of maneuver as Congo developments approach a new climax. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Nasser in Syria for Anniversary of Egypto-Syrian Union.

As is his custom, Nasser has gone to Syria to lead ceremonies celebrating the anniversary (Feb 22) of the union between Syria and Egypt. His speeches so far -- as of February 23 he had delivered a total of 6 --

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have stressed the expected anti-imperialist themes and have included specific attacks on (a) the U.S. for its Congo policy, (b) anti-Nasser Arabic newspapers published in Beirut which Nasser claimed were being financed by Britain, the U.S. and France, and (c) the Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party and the Lebanese Kata'ib Party, both of which Nasser described as tools of imperialism. On the whole, however, the anti-imperialist strain in Nasser's speeches has been cast in a lower key than might have been expected, and it appears that Nasser's main concern on this trip is to give a convincing justification of the exchange control measures recently imposed in the Syrian region. He has brought this subject up in each of his speeches, defending the measures by saying that under the former free exchange system, Syria's national wealth (the product of the "working man's sweat") was being frittered away for the "enrichment of a small clique." In justifying the controls to his audiences, Nasser has given much more stress to the theme of social equality than he has to that of increased economic efficiency. (CONFIDENTIAL)

In all of his speeches Nasser played heavily, and at times somewhat defensively, on the idea that the Egyptian-Syrian union was stronger than ever. In several passages he takes the trouble to deny reports of dissidence in Syria, or that Syrians could possibly be tolerating the presence of imperialist agents who were working against the union. (CONFIDENTIAL)

An interesting feature of Nasser's Latakia speech was his endorsement of SERRAJ and his denial of the rumor that he had come up to get rid of Serraj (Damascus Tel 571 to Dept, rptd 613 to Cairo). (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Russian and Yugoslav Guests at UAR Day Celebration in Syria.

The Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, Vladimir SEMENOV, who visited Cairo en route to the meetings of the UN Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa (Embdes 644), returned to Cairo after the meetings and according to the press was invited by President Nasser to attend the UAR Day Celebrations in Syria (G-434). He left Cairo for Syria on February 20, accompanied by Soviet Ambassador EROFEEV for a stay of four days in the Northern Region. A picture of a Semenov-Nasser meeting was featured in the Cairo press on February 23. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Another guest at the UAR Day celebrations in Damascus was the Yugoslav Deputy Foreign Minister, representing Tito. He was accompanied by the Yugoslav Ambassador to the UAR, Rato DUGONJIC, and also was shown in the press having an interview with Nasser. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: There was no general invitation to Ambassadors to attend the celebration in Damascus. While the visits of their Deputy Foreign Ministers no doubt provided a reason for inviting the Russian and Yugoslav Ambassadors, the particular attention paid by Nasser to these two countries could not help but strike readers of the Cairo press. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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4. Inter-Arab Propaganda War Continues.

In spite of the glowing promises emanating from the recent Arab League meeting in Baghdad, UAR press attacks against Tunisia, and to a lesser extent, against Jordan and Iraq have continued, although relatively restrained. As an example, the editor of "Gumhuriya" attributes three motives to BOURGUIBA'S professed willingness to mediate between the French and Algerians:

1. Bourguiba wants to pose as an international diplomat.
2. Knowing the Algerian question is on the verge of resolution, he wants credit for himself.
3. He considers himself "the only expert" on African Affairs.

Weekly "Akhar Saa" says complete accord exists between Bourguibe and the French to the point where Bourguiba allows French military bases in Tunisia and backs France in her "imperialistic interests" in Mauritania. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Iraqi Prime Minister QASSEM comes in for his share of comment in "Akhar's" February 22 issue, which asserts that the Iraqi people openly uphold Arab nationalism and support Nasser. In spite of the efforts on the part of some responsible officials to convince Iraqis to the contrary, a gap between the people, who support Arab nationalism, and the "rulers", who don't, has become huge. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Discovery in Damascus of a new "Jordanian-British plot" to bring about a revolution in the Syrian region was announced February 23, so far without editorial comment. Preoccupation with the Congo and with Nasser's speeches in Syria probably account for the lack of vituperation so far. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MILITARY - Negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. USIS Information Officer Detained

All Cairo dailies front-paged accounts of the 10-hour detention of USIS Information Officer NAGORSKI, who was accused by Ministry of Interior officials of distributing an "illegal" pamphlet. UAR officials described the pamphlet as "imperialistic propaganda" and as an "attack on pro-Lumumba states", including the UAR. The pamphlet contained nothing more than official statements on the Congo by Kennedy, Stevenson and Hammarskjold, each of which was identified by name and title of its author. Newspaper,

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radio and television accounts of the incident utilized the time-worn formula of continuous repetition of the "imperialist propaganda" label without offering substantiation. The story dominated all media for one day, then dropped out of the news until mentioned briefly four days later by Mohamed Hassanein HAIKAL (see below). It is noteworthy that the notoriously anti-western weekly, "Rose El Youssef", refrained from mentioning the incident, and writers on the magazine say they do not intend to mention it. Said one of the magazine's columnists: "They were out to get him (Nagorski) and if it hadn't been this they would have found something else." The columnist said the decision to discredit Nagorski was made because of his sponsorship of a series of well-attended discussion meetings at which supposedly anti-UAR opinions were expressed during informal debates on Africa and related problems. The same man, who this week has been in charge of the magazine's news operations, reported that he has just received instructions from the Presidency to say nothing about the pamphlet incident. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. US Responsible for Lumumba Murder.

All Cairo dailies arrive, through various tortured channels of reasoning, at the conclusion that the US is responsible for the death of Patrice Lumumba. The Damascus Union Day speeches of President Nasser added fuel to the flames (see Political). "Gumhuriya" said: "It was the policy makers at the Department of State that entrusted their agent TSHOMBE with the task of murdering him (Lumumba)." Other newspapers carried stories along the same line, vaguely attributed to "responsible Cairo circles", charged US imperialism for the death of Lumumba, citing as evidence the alleged "fact" that the United States has been giving Tshombe and Mobutu substantial financial assistance to supplement the arms and volunteers given by Belgium and France. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Ugly American.

"Ahram" Editor-in-Chief Haikal this week played on the "Ugly American" theme in a markedly anti-American article. In answering alleged US criticism of the UAR voting record in the UN, Haikal denies that the UAR supported the Soviet Union, says, by implication, that the Soviet Union supported the UAR. To charges and counter-charges on interference in the Congo, Haikal has this to say: "USA accuses us of playing with fire in Africa and of interference in Congo. The USA who took part in the murder of Lumumba (this is by no means interference). The UAR who joined in mourning Lumumba (this is truly interference)." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Haikal names three Americans in the Cairo Embassy who fit his conception of the "Ugly American". First named was Francis Allen, who, says Haikal, "thinks that the Egyptian fellah accepts voluntarily poverty and does not try to improve himself ... because he is too lazy. Allen thinks that industrialization projects are just expansionist dreams and even the High Dam is but another pyramid." Next named is Nagorski, for

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reasons described earlier, and last is the US military attache who, claims Haikal, had his men on the alert with tommy guns to fire on demonstrators had they broken into the compound during the recent unrest. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. US Prestige.

"Akhar Saa" this week points to "world-wide" demonstrations against US embassies as proof that US prestige is falling to lows unheard of during the Eisenhower Administration. Speaking of Kennedy's efforts to restore US prestige, the writer (Mohamed El Tabei) says: "It was a flop from the start. Barely a month has elapsed since he took over the Presidency. What will the situation be like in a few months?" (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. Arab Propaganda To Counter Israeli Efforts.

The Arab Information Permanent Committee this week made six recommendations to strengthen and increase the flow of Arab information throughout the world. They were: to counter Israeli infiltration in Africa by setting up an Arab League office at Accra; to step up Arab propaganda in Eastern Europe to discourage Jewish emigration to Israel; to publish an Arab-oriented news magazine in Spain for circulation in Madrid and Latin America; to encourage Arab League member states to supply their Secretariat General with news from their own areas; ask the Arab League to sponsor Arab specialized studies conferences at American, European and other universities; and make special efforts to ensure the high caliber of Arab delegates to international and inter-Arab conferences. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador :

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

POLITICAL - CCStrong, DScott, RJBarrett, MStern
USIS - RHelgerson

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

March 3, 1961

DATE

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SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 9

CIA-16
NSA-4

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1. UAR Unit for Congo.

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POLITICAL

1. Nasser Attacks Lebanese Phalange.

Nasser has remained in Syria following the UAR Unity Day celebrations on February 22. On February 23 and 25 he delivered speeches in which he sharply attacked the Lebanese Kataib party (Phalange) and, to a lesser extent, the Syrian Nationalist Party. Both were described as serving the ends of imperialism and Zionism by trying to discredit the "national unity" of the UAR. On the 25th, Nasser focused his attack on Phalange chief Pierre Jemayyel. Nasser stated that he wished to do nothing to undermine Lebanese independence and national unity; all he asked was that the Phalange have the same respect for the unity and independence of the UAR. He stated that the UAR had borne Phalange attacks patiently for some time, but it could no longer allow these attacks to go unanswered. Nasser struck a new note on February 26 and again on February 28 when, speaking to delegations of Lebanese who had come to Damascus to greet him, he dropped the attack on the Phalange and stressed UAR friendship and support for its neighbor Lebanon. In the meantime, a speech given by Lebanese Premier Salaam on February 28, in which Salaam said the Lebanese Government would have to consider the "curtailment" of Lebanon's free press to protect Lebanese foreign relations, was given wide play in the Cairo press, and news treatment began to use such phrases as "crisis with Lebanon eases". According to the press, Saeb Salaam is going to Damascus to have discussions with Nasser on March 4. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Although Nasser's attack on the Phalange may have quite far-reaching effects in Lebanese internal politics, the impression here is that Nasser was more interested in the limited objective of muzzling the Beirut press which is hostile to him than in provoking a full-scale crisis with Lebanon at this time. This would appear to be true from the manner in which Nasser suddenly switched his field in the middle of the week immediately after, it would appear, initial Lebanese reaction indicated that he stood a good chance of achieving his objective. One possibility is that if Nasser does intend to push ahead with further economic integration of the two regions during the next few months, he would be particularly anxious to have a period of silence on the part of his critics during the delicate period when these measures are announced and put into effect. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Belgium Breaks Off Diplomatic Relations with the UAR.

As the UAR had rejected Belgian protests against the burning of the Belgian Embassy in Cairo on February 15, the Belgian Government announced on February 25 that it had broken off diplomatic relations with the UAR. The UAR responded by sequestering all remaining Belgian property, including the personal property of private individuals as well as companies; requesting members of the Belgian Embassy staff to leave immediately; and ordering the deportation of all Belgian nationals within 24 hours. The deportation

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deadline was subsequently extended to eight days, including members of the Embassy staff, who are departing on March 4, leaving only a Consular officer behind to work with the Swiss Embassy, which is representing Belgian interests. Non-diplomatic nationals are allowed to take with them only used personal clothing and effects, but not valuables such as furs and jewelry. Some women have reportedly even had rings taken from them at the airport. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: The Embassy is unaware of any precedent or legal basis for the UAR's action in sequestering personal possessions in the manner described above. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. Congo.

The Congo has been supplanted as headline news by Nasser's current attention to Syrian and UAR-Lebanon affairs. Perhaps because of this pre-occupation with other themes, there has been little comment on the resolutions adopted at Accra by the Casablanca powers. The Embassy's impression is that the contrast between the latter and the UN resolution co-sponsored by the UAR may result from the UAR's having found itself, willingly or not, acting in the Security Council as one of the spokesmen for the entire Afro-Asian group. In other words, the resolution shows more signs of Indian or Nigerian than UAR drafting, and the latter, as one of the three Afro-Asian countries on the Security Council, found itself sponsoring a resolution that was largely not its own handiwork. The Accra resolutions may thus more accurately reflect the UAR's true sentiments. (The Preparatory Committee for the Afro-Asian Writers' Conference, in which the UAR of course exerts strong influence, issued a statement on March 1 urging all Afro-Asian nations to recognize the Gizenga regime. See below.) The UAR may have also been inclined to go along with some of the Accra resolutions (e.g., an African Command in the Congo) to please Nkrumah, in view of the latter's adherence to the resolution on Israel in Casablanca. At any rate, the UAR's present attitude seems to be one of "watchful waiting" and trying to maintain its freedom of maneuver until it decides how the implementation of the UN resolution is going. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. French-Algerian Talks.

Reports of mediation by Tunisian President Bourguiba between the French and the Algerians were not received with unalloyed joy in Cairo which, according to press treatment, tends to see in Bourguiba's initiative an attempt to build himself up personally as an Arab leader. Cairo press also reacted in lukewarm fashion to the news that a common approach to negotiations with the French had been established by Tunisia, the Algerians and Morocco, supposedly because this ^{entente} involved agreement to tie an independent North Africa to France. The UAR's real objection probably stems not so much from fear of a sell-out to France as from the fact that Bourguiba would

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probably get credit for any settlement and would thus enhance his standing as the Arab leader rivalling Nasser. The "greater Maghreb" concept, of Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria joined, also raises the specter of an Arab union challenging the UAR, and is not viewed by Cairo with a great deal of enthusiasm, although, as could be expected, lip service continues to be paid to the cause of Algerian independence. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. Afro-Asian Writers' Preparatory Committee.

The International Preparatory Committee for the Second Afro-Asian Writers' Conference met in Cairo February 27 - March 2. The Conference has been scheduled for Cairo from November 13 to 20, 1961. The main theme for the Conference will be: "Literature and the New Awakenings of Afro-Asian People." Prominent among the sub-themes are such invitations to demagoguery as "Literature of the Struggle for Freedom and Independence" and "Literature of the Struggle for Social Justice". The Preparatory Committee closed its sessions with a series of press statements: urging all Afro-Asian governments to recognize the Gizenga regime; condemning "imperialist threats to the UAR, Ghana and Guinea"; and supporting "the heroic struggle against imperialism in Algeria, Angola, Laos, the Cameroons and Indonesia." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: These preparations foreshadow that the Writers' Conference is not likely to devote itself to literary questions any more than the recent Afro-Asian Women's Conference confined itself to feminist problems. As with the latter, it looks like the Conference will provide another opportunity for strident anti-colonial and anti-Western pronouncements of the type favored by the UAR and warmly supported (for its own purposes) by the Sino-Soviet Bloc. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

6. African Leaders in the UAR.

Three prominent African nationalists have visited the UAR in recent days. The deposed Mwami of Ruanda arrived, allegedly unexpectedly, on February 23 and then a few days later Kenneth Kaunda of Northern Rhodesia and Joshua Nkomo of Southern Rhodesia stopped off on their return from the recent constitutional talks in London. (Kaunda said that he had recently met with President Nkrumah of Ghana and the Governor General of Nigeria, and after leaving Cairo he expected to call on Emperor Haile Selassie in Addis Ababa and President Abboud in Khartoum.) In Cairo, the three called on Ali Sabri, Minister for Presidential Affairs. Then, in what was obviously a trip specially arranged by the UAR, the three went to Damascus to be received there by President Nasser. Before leaving the UAR, Kaunda denounced the whites' boycott of the constitutional talks, and the Mwami lambasted alleged Belgian machinations in Ruanda-Urundi. Both lavishly praised Nasser's knowledge of and support for African independence movement. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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MILITARY

ARMY

1. UAR Unit for Congo.

The UAR Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been requested by the Secretary General of the United Nations to send a military unit to the United Nations Emergency Force in the Congo, according to the local press. Responsible circles in the UAR reportedly are now studying this request in consultation with the other African countries which withdrew their forces from the Congo. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The deciding factor will probably be political rather than military. (CONFIDENTIAL)

AIR - Negative.

NAVY - Negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. General Psychological Climate.

Last week came the lull after the storm. Anti-Americanism has been less pronounced, its edge slightly duller than a week earlier. But USIS activities are conducted in a low key and USIS contacts with Egyptians limited in order to save them embarrassment. FAMILY OF MAN Exhibit awaits formal contract signature (Cairo Municipality) and Helen Hayes arrival is still not certain. A couple of short films have been successfully placed in commercial circuit (TRAIL BLAZER IN SPACE and KENNEDY INAUGURATION), but otherwise informational activities proceed at a much slower pace than before. Official government displeasure which sparked the anti-American outbursts of the past weeks left a marked imprint upon the general psychological climate in which USIS operates. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. "Rose El Youssef" Describes U.S. Plans for the Middle East.

The leftist and usually anti-American weekly, "Rose El Youssef", printed the gist of an alleged American plan for the Middle East. Vice President Johnson is credited with its authorship. The project envisaged, among other things, the establishment of an international fund administered by the UN to be used for resettlement of Palestinian refugees; internationalization of both sectors of Jerusalem; revision of Israeli-Arab borders; amendment of the Johnson Plan for Jordan waters; cessation of Jewish immigration to Israel and opening of the Suez Canal to Jewish ships. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Comment: "Rose El Youssef" published the story without editorial comment. In the same issue the weekly suggested that US-UAR relationships are entering a brighter period. Within the last week or so "Rose El Youssef" has demonstrated remarkable restraint vis-a-vis the United States in the midst of one of the sharpest anti-American campaigns. The reason for this is unclear. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. Breaking of Diplomatic Relations with Belgium.

Belgium's decision to break diplomatic relations with the United Arab Republic was featured as one of the principal news items of the week. Editorially "Ahram" put the entire blame on Belgium and said "We find that the Belgian Government concentrated the output of its hatred on the UAR alone, providing the most outspoken testimony of our positive role ... (We) mobilized the world public opinion against imperialism ... (we have) nationalized all Belgian interests and (we have) rejected all Belgian notes of protest ... (We did our best) to rescue the United Nations from the grip of imperialism ..." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: By word of mouth many Egyptians learned about the treatment UAR authorities extended to Belgian civilians who were asked to leave the country in 24 hours. Stories about wedding rings being pulled off women's fingers, clean shirts confiscated as "people's property" etc. are being repeated all over Cairo. A typical Egyptian comment: "As long as the West will take insults without reacting, it will continue to be insulted." (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

4. Anti-Syrian and Anti-Lebanon Campaign.

President Nasser's trip to Damascus served as an occasion for attacks upon Syrian secessionists and Lebanese Phalangists headed by Pierre Jemayyel. The Syrian Nationalist Party was accused of plotting against the unity of the two countries and Cairo press announced subsequently that the Information Department plans to re-publish a book "Case of Syrian Nationalist Party" (first printed in 1949) containing a list of "crimes the party committed against the Arabs." Hassanein Haikal in an "Ahram" editorial attacked Lebanon and the Phalangists asking whether Lebanon is going to be transformed into a Middle East Hong Kong, e.g. into a free trading area, an American military base, and an American nightclub center. Other papers throughout the week made an effort to underline links of friendship existing between the UAR and Lebanon and castigating the Phalangists as the only "traitors to the cause of the Arab unity". (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. Sixteen Jews Surround President Kennedy.

"U.S. President John Kennedy", wrote "Al Shubban Al Muslimeen" (Young Muslim Men) last week, "could be described as a football skillfully maneuvered by a 16-man Jewish team." the semi-religious weekly deplores the fact that the entire world is waiting in expectation to see the new President

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change the policy of America, while he continues to act as a stooge of Israel. The Jews divided themselves into two factions - Republican and Democrats - to be sure always to rule. A list of sixteen Jewish names followed (Ribicoff, Goldberg, Jerome Wiesner, David Lilienthal and others). The article also mentioned that President Kennedy is familiar with the Middle East problems, having visited the area many times, including a visit to Israel in 1951. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. 1500 U.S. Students to Visit the UAR.

"Gumhuriya" reported that the UAR Cultural Counselor in Washington received requests from five American universities to organize combined study-tourist tours of the UAR for students and faculty members involving a total of 1,500 persons. "Gumhuriya" stated that arrangements are under way to secure housing accommodations for the visitors. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The story appears to be exaggerated. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

Political	-	CCStrong, DScott, RJBarrett, MSterner
Army	-	Lt. Colonel Joy
USIS	-	ZNagorski

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SUBJECT:		JOINT WEEKA NO. 10			

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4. Coptic Orthodox Threat to Boycott Pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
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From Amembassy Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Nasser Returns to Cairo from Syrian Sojourn.

Nasser returned from Syria by sea, arriving in Cairo on March 9. The main features of his last week in the northern region were (a) the issuance of a decree on March 3 which in effect speeded up the Arabization of the capital of all banks operating in the Syrian region (b) the distribution, also on March 3, of land titles to the latest beneficiaries of the Syrian region land reform program (c) an effort to treat the previous two week's sharp attack on the Lebanese Phalange party as a thing of the past and to stress the basically amicable relations existing between the UAR and Lebanon.

Nasser used the occasion of the land distribution ceremony to deliver a speech defending the bank Arabization decree. He asserted that foreign-owned banks such as the Banque de Syrie ("100 percent French owned") had not been mindful of regional needs. In implicit recognition of the adverse reaction of the Syrian business class to Syria's slide toward state socialism, Nasser painted a tempting picture of the benefits which all Egyptian occupational groups had derived from economic controls in the southern region.

Nasser also welcomed a number of Lebanese delegations coming to Damascus to greet him. His remarks on these occasions, as reported in the press, have been innocuous tributes to UAR-Lebanese solidarity and have apparently avoided reference to his previous attacks on the Phalange and S.N.P. Similarly the press, while giving a big play to the attack on the automobiles of Nasser supporters at al-Kahhala and the alleged dynamite plot on Saib Salaam's life, has avoided any editorial comment on the Lebanese internal political situation for the past ten days.

According to the Cairo press, Nasser will return to Syria "soon" in order to make a tour of the Governorates. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: At the land title distribution ceremony Nasser was surrounded by Syrian Region ministers, but it was unquestionably Nasser's show. Peasants who received titles embraced Nasser, waved their titles for all to see, and otherwise expressed their evident joy. Nasser's handling of the ceremony strengthened the impression that he is endeavoring to take a more active hand in Syrian politics and at the same time to push into the background Syrian leaders, notably Sarraj, who have been acting as his intermediaries. (Damascus tel to Dept 589) (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. Congo.

The Congolese (Stanleyville) "Diplomatic Mission" in Cairo has during the past week been the channel for several messages to the outside world by Stanleyville Premier Gizenga. These messages, however, have been given relatively low-key treatment by the Cairo press. They were: (1) a message from Gizenga on March 6 to the Tananarive Conference thanking it for its invitation to him to attend but saying that press reports that he would

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attend were unfounded; (2) a message on March 7 to the UNGA violently attacking UNSYG Hammarskjold and his assistants in the Congo and saying the Congolese wanted nothing further to do with them; and (3) a second message, on March 8, to the Tananarive Conference saying the meeting was imperialist-inspired and describing the participants - Tshombe, Ileo, and Kasavubu - as traitors and puppets, though, at the same time, recognizing Kasavubu as the legal President of the Congo and urging the reconvening of the Congo Parliament.

The UAR position on the Congo has remained somewhat ambivalent. According to Presidency Political Counselor Mahmoud Riad, the UAR fully supports the Security Council resolution of February 21 provided it is effectively carried out. If the UAR saw signs that the UN was moving vigorously toward this objective, they would be prepared to give it every assistance including supplies, personnel, and even a military contingent. If, however, the UN continued its ineffective fumbling the UAR would not get involved.

Riad also said that the UAR fully supports the Accra resolutions, which it does not consider inconsistent with the Security Council resolution but rather as spelling out further steps to be taken. He left the impression, however, that while the UAR was supporting Nkrumah's idea of an "African Command", it did not regard this as a matter of great importance. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: The UAR appears to be playing a wait-and-see game. If a strengthened UN operation begins to show signs of success, it will presumably associate itself with it. If not, it will consider itself free to join like-minded powers in a more militant course of action. The UAR does not appear, however, to be entirely sure what such a course of action should be. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. UAR Woos Mali.

The UAR extended VIP treatment to the Mali delegation that visited here from February 26 to March 7. The delegation was led by Madeira KEITA, Mali Minister of Interior and Information. To the accompaniment of extensive publicity, Mali and the UAR on March 5 signed four agreements covering trade and payments, technical assistance, cultural exchange, and an industrial loan. The latter will be "in the form of complete factories, machines and technical assistance", will be in an amount to be determined, and will be repayable over seven years. Keita expressed "admiration" for the UAR because he had seen Eastern and Western countries cooperating in the execution of important projects and he opined that "the UAR is an African country taking the right direction in national reconstruction". Ali Sabri, UAR Minister for Presidential Affairs, replied that the agreements are "the first fruit of the meeting held at Casablanca by the free African countries." The Mali delegation left Cairo on March 7 for Moscow. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Comment: This appears to be a lavish UAR effort, similar to that extended Somalia, to capitalize on Moslem ties, Mali's rudimentary economy, and the similarity of UAR and Mali political predilections to try to establish a strong UAR presence in Mali and try to pre-empt the field from the Israelis. (Embdes 712, March 10, 1961). (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

4. UAR Views on Algerian Developments.

The UAR approach to a possible settlement of the Algerian issue seems marked by divergent attitudes, the official position being that any agreement reached by the PAG will be acceptable, provided the territorial integrity of Algeria is maintained. The union of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia in a "Greater Maghreb" also receives official blessing, provided the union is not to be linked with France. Despite this, however, Bourguiba has been repeatedly attacked in the press and adverse criticism of the "Greater Maghreb" (if tied to France) has been attributed to rebel Riff leader Abdel Krim el-KATTABY, who is sometimes used by the UAR to take positions that the UAR does not wish to support openly. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: The UAR may find it unpalatable that a successful conclusion to the fighting in Algeria should be attributed to Bourguiba's efforts and that three independent Arab states should consider merging in a union not subservient to Cairo. Open opposition, however, to such ideas might serve to cast doubt on the UAR's oft-repeated pronouncements toward Algeria and Arab unity generally. Hence this muted official support, accompanied by newspaper criticism, which can always be attributed to a free, untrammelled press, not representative of the official view. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. New Reconnaissance Restrictions.

On March 9 the UAR Foreign Liaison Office notified all American attaches that one north-south road near Suez, which was previously unrestricted, is now a prohibited area. This "Treaty Road" parallels the Suez Canal Road to the west and runs from Suez to Ismailia past several Army installations. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: It is not known whether this is a permanent restriction, or is only in effect during the usual Army maneuvers, which are now due. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

AIR

1. Flight Clearance Requests Denied by Foreign Office.

The UAR Foreign Office denied two requests for flight clearance of the

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Air Attache plane to Damascus-Beirut and Assiut-Alexandria-Athens, but approved a trip to Jidda on March 23-25. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: No explanation was given for the two cancellations. The Damascus flight was believed cancelled because President Nasser was in the Northern Region at the time. This occurred under similar circumstances last year. However, there is no apparent reason for the second cancellation except that the UAR does not wish foreign observers near the Port Area. This may be a new cycle of general restrictions. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

NAVY - Negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. U.S. Fleet Off the Congo.

A couple of days after the Cairo press reported cancellation of orders issued to the U.S. Fleet to sail into Congo waters, Ahmad Baha El Din in "Akhbar" wrote: "American orders for U.S. Fleet to head for the Congo and the sudden cancellation of the operation makes it plain that direct American interference in the Congo is possible and that there were plans drawn for such interference in case of emergency"

Earlier, the Cairo press confined its reporting to news stories alone. Secretary Rusk's remarks at his press conference on March 9 clarifying the U.S. position on the subject of the U.S. fleet have not been mentioned. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Situation in the Congo.

Fewer editorials and less vitriolic attacks on the United Nations characterized this week's reporting on the Congo. On March 10 "Akhbar" appeared with huge headlines announcing an intensified crisis in the Congo and disqualifying news agencies' report about Gizenga's downfall as "imperialistic" propaganda. The same paper earlier in the week editorially repeated the general line of earlier attacks on the United Nations, but concluded that the UN still has a chance by demanding that Mobutu and others - including Belgium, France and the U.S. - respect the UN flag.

A news story attributed to Reuters was published in all papers stating that Nehru mentioned a possibility of the return of UAR troops to the Congo. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The story was interpreted by some observers here as indicative that the UAR may be again considering the matter of direct participation in the UN operations. The UAR contingent returned to Cairo several weeks ago. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. Negotiations on Algeria.

Bourguiba-DeGaulle talks were reported by all papers and summarized

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by "Ahram", whose editor, Hassanein Haikal, often takes upon himself the task of interpreting official UAR policy. The summary included the following points:

- UAR supports all efforts to stop fighting in Algeria and to restore peace, provided results accomplished will be commensurate with the sacrifices made by the Algerian people.
- Bourguiba's mediation is welcomed provided he succeeds in convincing France to agree to Algerian demands.
- The Free Algerian Government represents the will of Algeria.
- A Union between Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco would be a step forward towards the establishment of an Arab Union; it must be done, however, in accordance with the will of the people concerned without any outside pressure.

A few days after the article appeared an official announcement was published in Cairo that the Voice of the Arabs started (effective March 8) beaming a daily news commentary in the Algerian dialect at 2:20 a.m. The Voice of the Arabs Director, making the announcement, stated that the new commentary was requested by the Algerian Government in view of "the recent developments in the Algerian situation." (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

4. Coptic Orthodox Threat to Boycott Pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

The Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate decided to ban Coptic pilgrims' travel to Jerusalem in protest against the Jordanian Government's decision to hand over the Sultan Monastery in Jerusalem to the Ethiopian monks. The Holy Synod of the Church held several meetings here and the Cairo press provided extensive coverage of the incident. The Synod maintains that the Monastery belongs to the Coptic Orthodox Church in accordance with the Berlin agreement signed in 1878. Furthermore the Church here was aggravated by the fact that the Jordanian Army allegedly entered the Monastery and requisitioned it by force. (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. African Institute in Cairo in Danger.

A feature article appeared in "Gumhuriya" deploring lack of official recognition and support for the African Institute in Cairo, which offers courses on and about Africa. "The Institute", wrote "Gumhuriya" "is facing moral and material crisis ... The Institute needs about LE 60,000 to stand once more on its feet We expect the Central Minister of Education Kamal El Din Hussein to take the initiative. Up to 1953 the Institute graduated about 20 students each year, but lately it dwindled down to three or four only."

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The newspaper listed a number of European countries in which African Institutes exist and concluded that "in some of these countries imperialistic policies are outlined and prepared in these Institutes." (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador :

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary of Embassy

Contributors:

Political - CCStrong, DScott, RJBarrett, MSterner
Army - Lt. Colonel Joy
Air - Colonel Bechtel
USIS - ZNagorski

W.S.

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POLITICAL

1. Congo.

While there has been no official UAR statement on the Congo during the past week, other than the announcement that the UAR had requested a Security Council meeting to consider "the non-implementation of SC resolutions on the Congo", there has been a steady flow of press comment giving a fairly clear indication of the UAR position. In brief, this is that the Tananarive Conference represented an effort to dismember the Congo by the "imperialist stooges" - Tshombe, Kasavubu, Iléo and Kalonji; that the UN has deliberately delayed taking action to implement the SC resolution of February 21; and that by promptly voicing official support for the Tananarive agreements, the U.S. has revealed its complicity in the "imperialist plot". Assistant Secretary Williams' reported remarks in Monrovia have been attacked and derided in editorials as well as in a commentary by the political editor of the quasi-official Middle East News Agency. "Gumhuriya's" editorialist has gone so far as to say that the Tananarive agreements were the result of Williams' efforts during his recent visit to the Congo. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: While a full-scale press campaign has not been mounted against the U.S. on the Congo situation, the gap between the U.S. and UAR positions has once more widened sharply. Accenting this gap was the announcement on March 14 that the UAR has approved the appointment of Mr. Val SALUMU as Ambassador of the Gizenga "Government" in Cairo. However, while it is clear where the UAR's sympathies lie, there has been a notable absence of indication of what steps they propose to take next on the Congo problem. That the USSR is not inactive in this matter is indicated by the announcement that the Soviet Ambassador, at his request, discussed the Congo situation with Deputy Foreign Minister Zulficar Sabri on March 16. Other consultations are no doubt also taking place, and Nasser will probably discuss the question with Nehru when the latter stops off in Cairo on his return to India (March 19-21). (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Nasser's Interview with "New York Times" on Algeria.

In an interview with the "New York Times" Cairo correspondent, Nasser discussed his position on the Algerian question, and a possible settlement with the French, supporting the idea of negotiation and indicating that he had no objection to Bourguiba's mediation, despite his own differences with Bourguiba. He reportedly stated, however, that he had asked Belkassam Krim not to enter into an alliance or pact with France. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Wide publicity given in the Cairo press to the "Times" interview is a further indication that UAR policy has swung from criticism to mild approval of attempts to resolve the Algerian issue. This may be because the UAR now feels that the prospects for successful negotiations have improved to such an extent that it can no longer afford to take a negative public position. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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3. Foreign Ministry Shake-Up.

The Foreign Ministry is undergoing a major reshuffle of personnel and assignments. A number of senior career diplomatic officers have been retired before the normal retirement age (Embdes 670, February 23, 1961) and new appointments have included a large number of military officers. According to press announcements and comments made by Ministry officials, one of the organizational changes being made in the Ministry is the establishment of a body of senior Ministry officials immediately under Undersecretary ISMAIL which will: coordinate the operations of the various area departments within the Ministry; organize relations with international and regional organizations; step up the Ministry's public relations effort; and provide planning and close supervision for the operations of all UAR diplomatic missions abroad. For this last task, according to the press, a key military figure, Brigadier Saleh BADR, has been chosen. (See Army and Air).
(OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

4. New Ambassadors in Cairo.

An unusually heavy influx of new diplomatic envoys arrived in Cairo this week. The new Ambassadors are: Sir Harold BEELEY of the UK; Modibo DIALLO of Mali; and Abd al-Kabir AL-FASI of Morocco. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Key Military Officer to Supervise UAR Embassies.

Brigadier Saleh BADR was named as Ambassador-at-Large and Inspector General at the Foreign Ministry and will head the Directorate of Inspection charged with the supervision of UAR embassies. Brigadier Badr was recently transferred to the diplomatic service from the UAR Armed Forces where he was serving as Deputy Chief of Intelligence of the UAR Armed Forces.
(OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: Badr is typical of the type of military men to whom President Nasser continues to look for reliable support and faithful implementation of UAR policies. This top intelligence expert, charged with inspecting UAR Ambassadors, many of whom are also ex-military officers, now is in a position to improve intelligence operations in UAR embassies world-wide. (CONFIDENTIAL)

AIR

1. General Ramzi Transferred to Foreign Ministry.

UAR Air Force Brigadier General Izz al-Din RAMZI has been released from active duty with the UARAF to enter the Foreign Ministry. He has replaced Mr. Muhammad SUBKI on the North American desk in the UAR Foreign Office. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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NAVY - Negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Press Attacks Tananarive Conference Plan for Congo.

Angry reaction to the success of the "imperialists" in partitioning the Congo was the dominant feature of the Cairo press this week. "The UN has allowed itself to become an instrument in colonialists' hands," wrote "Gumhuriya". The attack also focused on US announcements of support for the Tananarive plan. "Gumhuriya" wrote "... Why should the US be the first state in the world to recognize officially the Tananarive agreements for the division of the Congo ...? (an) agreement concluded right after Mennen Williams' visit ...? US haste is nothing but a hostile act against the people, the independence and the unity of the Congo." Cairo Radio in its commentary on March 13 developed a similar theme: "US hastening to recognize Tananarive's agreements provides another proof that imperialism's intention is to dismember the Congo to the detriment of its people." An MEN diplomatic commentator released an article to all papers blaming the new American administration for endorsing the "stooges' conference". (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: MEN political commentaries are usually semi-official handouts prepared by the Government's spokesmen. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. New Publication Attacks U.S. Peace Corps.

A new weekly published by "Rose El Youssef" Publishing House called "Al Hayat" made its appearance this week. Anti-American in tone, the weekly tackled the subject of the proposed Peace Corps in the following terms: "The West is exporting angels to the East ... Following Kennedy's announcement about the formation of the Peace Corps in order to regain U.S. prestige, the West Germans decided to follow suit ... The most significant aspect of the American plan is its detachment from official aid programs, the Central Intelligence Agency or espionage scheme .. Could this be possible ...? We would like to deal with all peoples in an honest way and on equal footing ... but we want men, not angels." The title of the article is "Angels for Export." (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. "Johnson's Plan" for Palestine.

A total rejection of the so-called Johnson Plan was included in another of the MEN political commentator's articles this week. The plan would be "an attempt on the part of America to force a settlement of the Palestinian problem at the expense of the people ... it is a scheme reflecting previous American schemes aimed at imposing American trusteeship over the Middle East...." (UNCLASSIFIED)

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From: Embassy Cairo

4. U.S. Loan to Israel.

Cairo press frontpaged on March 16 President Kennedy's press conference and his announcement about the new U.S. loan to Israel. "Akhbar" branded Kennedy's move as "imperialistic policy following Truman's and Eisenhower's line." "Gumhuriya" wrote, "The new U.S. loan is but a new weapon placed by America in the hands of an aggressor ... U.S. is thus instigating Israel to perpetuate more aggressions and to pursue its criminal policy defying UN resolutions." (UNCLASSIFIED)

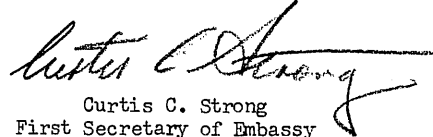
5. Success of Voice of Arabs.

"Gumhuriya" published an interview with Ahmad SAID, Director of the Voice of Arabs radio, in which were reiterated the expansive claims about the effectiveness of the system. Said stated that the U.S. CIA has testified that Arab broadcasts rank second in the world, claimed that 100 percent of all Arab radio listeners are tuned to the program during the 8 p.m. newscasts. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Arab Culture.

"Akhbar" reports that the UAR will open the biggest cultural center in West Africa next month. It will be in Kumasi, Ghana. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:


Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary of Embassy

Contributors:

Political	-	CCStrong, DScott, MSterner
Army	-	Lt. Colonel Joy
Air	-	Colonel Bechtel
USIS	-	ZNagorski

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POLITICAL

1. Congo.

a) The UAR position on the Congo remained unclear, though there were some straws in the wind suggesting that the UAR was not eager to undertake action outside the UN framework. Most interesting of these was a story published in all Cairo papers quoting the political editor of the Middle East News Agency. The editor, commenting on the story that Gen. Hassan BESHIR of the Sudan had complained to the UK Foreign Secretary about UAR pressure on the Sudan to permit transit of arms and military equipment through the Sudan to the Congolese (Stanleyville) "Government", said official circles in Cairo believed the story untrue. Among the reasons given were that "the UAR believes, as portrayed by all her actions towards the Congo, that the solution of the Congolese problem should not come through steps which would intensify civil war in the Congo" and that "the UAR believes that any action in the Congo ought to be taken via the UN, and in all her actions the UAR aimed at strengthening the UN to take every necessary action in the Congo." These statements by a quasi-official news agency appeared to represent some modification in the UAR's public position on the Congo. Moreover, it is interesting to note that they were made just after Nehru's visit to Cairo.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

b) The Gizenga "Government" continued to use Cairo as one of its principal information outlets. In a press conference, Education Minister Pierre Mulele attacked the UN, the imperialists and their agents; urged that Hammarskjöld be relieved of his position; supported an African military command for the Congo; and demanded recognition for the Gizenga Government. He also urged the implementation of Security Council resolutions, avoided criticism of the Sudan, and dealt somewhat less harshly with Kasavubu than with such "agents" and "traitors" as Mobutu, Tshombe, Kalonji and Ileo. The tenor of his remarks, while following the usual Gizenga line, gave the impression that the Gizenga position might not be entirely inflexible.
(OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Nehru Stops Off in Cairo.

On his way home from the Commonwealth Conference in London, Nehru spent an active 36 hours in Cairo sightseeing and holding talks with Nasser. According to press reports (which the Indian Embassy confirms are accurate) the talks ranged over a wide variety of international questions. Among the topics discussed: the situations in the Congo, Laos, and Algeria, the forthcoming negotiations on disarmament, US policy under the new administration, "ways and means of bolstering up the UN to enable it to play its proper role", and the "advantages and disadvantages of holding another Bandung Conference."

At a press conference shortly before his departure Nehru elaborated on his views concerning some of the subjects above, particularly the Congo situation and possible changes in the UN. On the Congo, Nehru said he

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believed the latest Security Council resolution was capable of remedying the situation - the problem now was to implement the resolution. He expressed his opinion that the Tananarive Conference was not truly representative of the Congolese people. On the UN Nehru stated that he favored increased Afro-Asian representation on the Security Council, but in his opinion this subject should not be taken up at this time, since to do so would distract the UN from the more important problems which it is currently facing, namely the Congo and disarmament. (Emb G-476). (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: From his press conference remarks it would appear that Nehru's short stop-over in Cairo and his talks with Nasser have brought no change to his previously stated moderate views concerning the Congo and changes in the UN. Nehru's visit coincided with signs that the UAR itself may be taking a somewhat more moderate position on the Congo (see above). (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. Arab League Council Meeting in Cairo.

The 35th session of the Arab League Council opened March 21 with the Moroccan delegate in the chair and all member states represented except Tunisia, whose delegate arrived March 22. After paying homage to the late King Mohammed V, and hearing an address from Secretary General Hassouna on the accomplishments of the League, the opening session ended, to be resumed two days later in camera.

According to press reports, the agenda is composed largely of cultural and administrative items, but, in addition, Israel's relations with Iran and Malaya will be discussed, as well as a purported Israeli plan to train Jewish youth from Western countries in Israel and then return them to their homes to "serve Zionist ends". (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The rather pallid agenda and the generally low level of representation indicates that little of political substance can be expected from the meeting, which will probably last about one week. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

4. All-African Peoples' Conference.

The All-African Peoples' Conference will open March 25 (postponed from March 23) with a speech by Nasser. (This is the third AAPC; previous meetings were in Accra in 1958 and Tunis in 1960.) Preliminary contacts with delegates indicate a more extreme anti-imperialist line than previous AAPC meetings, and quite possibly specific criticism of U.S. African policies. (Embtel 1574, March 22) (CONFIDENTIAL)

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MILITARY

ARMY

1. UAR Armed Forces Command Post Exercise.

Reports persist that an Armed Forces Command Post Exercise will begin March 25 between Headquarters, SECOND Army (Egyptian Region) and Headquarters, FIRST Army (Syrian Region) with possible participation by UAR Naval and Air Force Headquarters. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Such a test is past due if the UAR ever expects to have an effective defense or to launch a coordinated attack against Israel. What means will be utilized to communicate between the two regions remains unknown. (CONFIDENTIAL)

AIR - Negative.

NAVY - Negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Hassanein Haikal on US-UAR Relations.

Hassanein Haikal, one of President Nasser's unofficial spokesmen, once again has taken up his pen to analyze current US-UAR relations. This time his article is based on alleged conversations with "a personal friend of President Kennedy" and consists of comments on the contrasting positions of America and the UAR. The gist of Haikal's article follows:

Cairo, wrote Haikal, tried and will keep trying to avoid direct clashes with Washington. Cairo is not concerned with the past, with what was said during the election campaign in the United States. When the new administration took office "we opened a new chapter in the US-UAR relations."

Shortly thereafter a warning was delivered by President Kennedy, a warning aimed at states interfering in the affairs of the Congo. Cairo remained silent since in the UAR view the warning was aimed at only one country, an ally and a friend of the United States - Belgium. Later on, however, Secretary of State Rusk elaborated further on the statement and reportedly said at a hearing of a Congressional Committee that the warning was aimed at the Soviet Union and the United Arab Republic. Furthermore the news agencies reported that Secretary Rusk accused the UAR of smuggling arms to Stanleyville. At this point the UAR could no longer remain silent since Mr. Rusk's geography was obviously wrong, "We could not," said Haikal, "smuggle arms to Stanleyville without passing through the territories of other states."

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While officially US supported joint UAR-Liberian-Ceylon UN resolution, the American press attacked it.

A secret letter was dispatched from Ben Gurion to Secretary Rusk. In this letter Ben Gurion requested American help to make Israel stronger and suggested ways and means on how to solve the Middle East problems. Elimination of the UAR and President Nasser were his principal recommendations. Two weeks later President Kennedy at his press conference announced a \$25 million loan to Israel.

Vice President Johnson called on the Arabs to accept a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli dispute in return for a \$500 million payment from the US.

A new military pact is in the making, a pact described by the present Tunisian Ambassador to Washington as an anti-UAR measure. The pact would embrace Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco with French and American support.

There are a number of reasons why Americans are irritated with the UAR - the Helen Hayes troupe has not been permitted to enter the UAR in view of its Tel Aviv visit; Americans failed to find one single publisher in Cairo who was willing to undertake publishing an Arabic edition of President Kennedy's book "Strategy of Peace", a book which contains speeches professing good will toward Israel and ill will toward the Arabs. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. US Pavilion at Cairo Agricultural Exhibition.

A press preview of the American Pavilion, sponsored by USIS-Cairo, attracted an unusual number of newsmen and cameramen representing all media. Highlights of the preview included short remarks made by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John P. Duncan and a tour of the pavilion. Press coverage, however, has been sparse. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. UAR TV's English Language Programs.

As of March 18, UAR-TV deleted from program schedules the English-language "second channel". Vestiges of the "second program" are retained on the original channel which otherwise is completely in Arabic. Reportedly the second channel attracted so much attention that the first channel, beaming Arabic music and commentaries, had lost most of its viewers. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: At present the fate of the second channel and program are in balance but should they be abandoned this would represent a serious setback for orienting UAR-TV toward English-speaking programs. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. US Base in Saudi Arabia.

News items about Saudi Arabia's decision not to renew the Dhahran air base agreement were published prominently by Cairo newspapers. Editorially only "Gumhuriya" commented: "There is nothing strange in the decision to

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liquidate the Dhahran air base ... For air bases, the bases of imperialism and aggression have been destined to liquidation since peoples of the countries concerned unmasked the role for which the bases were intended ... Every base which imperialism establishes in one country is a menace to another and constitutes an encroachment on the sovereignty and freedom of the people on whose territory the base is built." (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. Cultural Exchanges with the Soviet Union.

"Gumhuriya" reported that Sarwat Okasha, Minister of Culture and National Guidance approved a one-year study-trip to the Soviet Union for 22 officials of his Ministry. The group will specialize in theater, music, documentary films, graphic arts and paintings. The trip will be organized in implementation of the 1961 cultural exchange agreement signed between the two countries. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. US Loan to Israel.

In addition to numerous editorial comments accusing the US of strengthening Israel in order to weaken the Arabs' position in the Middle East, the Voice of the Arabs took sharp exception to the US decision. In a broadcast beamed to Arab listeners VOA said: "US has continued to pursue a hostile policy toward the UAR, of supporting Israel and destroying the Arab nationalism ... The following examples unmask the US attitude: (a) Johnson's plan (b) \$25 million loan to Israel (c) Senator Keating's declaration regarding freedom of navigation in the Suez Canal and (d) Israel's declaration that American ex-servicemen will join the Israeli army." Voice of the Arabs then assured its listeners that American efforts will result in failure and that the UAR will remain adamant and strong. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The big play given to the \$25 million loan to Israel was undoubtedly the result of the fact that the announcement was made by President Kennedy himself. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Enclosure:

Correction of Item 2,
Pol Section, Week 11.

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

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Political - CCStrong, DScott, RJBarrett, MSterner
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From CAIRO

Correction of Item 2 in Cairo Weeka #11, of March 17, 1961

Item 2 in the Political Section of Weeka #11 (Embdes 735 March 17, 1961) erroneously spoke of a "Nasser" interview with the "New York Times".

The item should be corrected to read as follows:

2. "New York Times" Story on Algeria

Cairo press March 14 reported a New York Times article on UAR Algerian policy which is of considerable interest, since the Times seems to have received its information from an authoritative source. Article said that Nasser supported idea of French-Algerian negotiations, and indicated that Nasser had no objection to Bourguiba's mediation, despite his own differences with Bourguiba. Article also said Nasser had asked Belkassem Krim not to enter into an alliance apart with France.

Wide publicity given in the Cairo press to the "Times" interview is a further indication that UAR policy has swung from criticism to mild approval of attempts to resolve the Algerian issue. This may be because the UAR now feels that the prospects for successful negotiations have improved to such an extent that it can no longer afford to take a negative public position.
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March 31, 1961

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 13

USA-4

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5. Effectiveness of Cairo Radio Program.
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POLITICAL

1. All African Peoples Conference.

The third All African Peoples Conference met in Cairo from March 24 to 30. According to the Secretary-General, some 67 political and trade union organizations from 32 African countries were represented. Representation was uneven: from the Brazzaville group of former French Community states only a few dissident groups were present; the major political parties in Nigeria did not send anyone; Uganda was represented only by a small minority party; the Sudan was unrepresented; and the only Congolese delegates were from the Gizenga regime. A number of countries were represented by second echelon leaders, including Guinea, Ghana, Mali, and Tunisia. Some, however, particularly those of East and Central Africa were represented by leading political figures. The Conference's resolutions were largely extremist. They featured a demand for the immediate withdrawal of all colonial powers from Africa and a lengthy denunciation of "neo-colonialism" as the "greatest threat" to Africa, which listed the US first among the "main perpetrators" of this alleged evil. Also demanded was reorganization of the UN Secretariat in conformity with current world conditions and the dismissal of Hammarskjöld. On the Congo, the Conference endorsed the Gizenga regime as the legal government, attacked the Tananarive plan, urged neighboring countries to permit food and medicines to reach the Congolese people, and called for implementation of the UN resolutions to "remove imperialist mercenaries" and convene parliament. The resort to force in the struggle for African freedom was specifically endorsed. The economic resolution calls for the Inter-State African Transport Company (land, sea, air), African Bank, and development of African Common Market. The Conference also recommended that African countries establish an African consultative assembly, military command, and economic, youth and similar organs. The launching of an All-African Trade Union Federation was called for. Also called for was a "Council of States Supra-National" to examine cases of violation of democratic rights of workers. There was a series of resolutions on specific countries, including Algeria, South Africa, South West Africa, Kenya, several Portuguese African territories, Central African Federation, Ruanda Urundi, etc. The next AACP was set for Bamako in 1962. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: The impact of the Congo on African emotions was the dominant factor at the Conference, and it produced a strong anti-West, anti-American, and anti-UN mood. The UAR was able to stand back and let these emotions carry the Conference to extremist positions. The tide was so powerful that those African moderates present obviously felt that they could not resist and risk being damned by a pro-American label. The language of the resolutions in many areas, directly or implicitly, offers an opportunity for Communist propaganda exploitation.

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2. Hussein-Nasser Letters.

Letters exchanged between King Hussein and President Nasser were printed in full in Cairo's Arabic, French and English language press, all of which hailed them as marking a significant turning point in Arab relations. Hussein, whose message was couched in the most friendly terms, called for the ending of disputes and dissensions, and the joining of hands to face the enemies of Arabism and Islam.

Nasser's reply was also friendly and warm, describing Hussein's letter as a "happy surprise" and agreeing that Arab solidarity is vital to the safety of Arab states. After denying that he had tried to destroy the image of the "heroic young king", Nasser discussed the main points of UAR policy towards Palestine, imperialism, ("evil in all its shapes and forms") Israel (an evil which must be uprooted) in familiar terms, touched on UAR internal policy and then assured Hussein that differing conditions in various Arab countries permit differing policies. There is no intent to impose UAR policy on any other country and Nasser has no dreams of personal glory; there are areas where he and Hussein disagree, but these differences can and should be faced in a spirit of "brotherly forgiveness and deep understanding". The letter was signed "Your sincere brother". (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: While it is too soon to judge what effect, if any, this exchange of messages may have in the long run, it certainly represents a gain over the recent past, when Nasser openly called for Hussein's overthrow. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Prince Talal Visits Cairo.

Saudi Minister of Finance, Prince Talal ibn Abdul Aziz, at present visiting Cairo, announced after holding two meetings in two days with President Nasser that as a result of the meetings UAR-Saudi relations had been strengthened. Nasser has reportedly accepted an invitation conveyed to him by Talal to visit Saudi Arabia immediately after Bairam (May 24).

From press reports it appears that the main purpose of Talal's visit has been to discuss economic and commercial relations between the UAR and Saudi Arabia. At a press conference on March 30 he announced that the visit had resulted in complete accord on these matters. Most of Talal's statements have consisted of the usual political generalities; however, in his March 30 press conference, he is quoted by the Arabic press as having said that Saudi Arabia had refused to renew the US Dhahran air base agreement as a protest against the recent US loan to Israel and because the Kennedy Administration had not fundamentally altered US policy toward the Arabs. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Souvanna Phouma - UAR Communique

Souvanna Phouma arrived in the UAR on March 23 and departed for Paris the following day. Following a meeting between Souvanna and Nasser on the 23rd, the two leaders agreed to create a Joint African Military Council. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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the two leaders issued a communique in which they stated they were in agreement on the following points concerning the situation in Laos: (a) revival of the International Control Commission composed of India, Canada, and Poland to stop hostilities and prevent foreign intervention (b) holding a conference of 14 countries, the Geneva Conference member states and five others to enable Laos to "solve its internal problems and remain neutral" (c) "to support the aspirations of the people of Laos and defend the policy of peace and neutralism" (Embtel 1592). (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Damascus-Amman Road Reopened.

On 28 March 1961, the UAR First Army Headquarters announced the reopening of the DAMASCUS-AMMAN Road to all traffic. The road and the SYRIAN-JORDANIAN border had been closed to traffic between 1700 and 0400 hours each night since last September. The Army headquarters stated that the restriction was lifted following the conclusion of military exercises in the DERA A area. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The "exercises" mentioned may have been precautionary measures taken during the visit to Syria of President Abdul NASSER which began with the celebration of UNION DAY, 22 February 1961. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Military Aspects of the All-African Peoples Conference Resolutions.

Some of the resolutions adopted by the AAPC (see Political) dealt with military matters or had military undertones. For example, the conference endorsed the resort to force under some circumstances to liquidate colonialism; denounced "military bases sometimes introduced as scientific research stations or training schools, introduced either before independence or as a condition for independence"; exposed "as active agents of colonialism" military personnel in armed forces and police as officers or advisers; urged liquidation of foreign military bases in Africa; demanded the stopping of imperialistic military intervention in the Congo and the expulsion of foreign mercenaries; appealed to neighboring countries to facilitate the transit of victuals and medicines into the Congo; demanded the withdrawal of Belgian troops and military bases from RUANDA-URUNDI and the creation of African troops to maintain order during the formation of a national police force; supported the removal of British military bases from Kenya, and the immediate and complete withdrawal of French and British troops from both Cameroons; and recommended that the independent African states create a commission of African commanders to study, define and organize an African joint defense. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: The lifting or easing of border restrictions in the SUDAN, and Tanganyika might facilitate transshipment of arms to the CONGO. The recommendation to create a military commission indicates a renewal of the proposition for some form of joint African Military Command. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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AIR

1. Visit of U.S. National War College Group

Some 35 members of the National War College visited Cairo from March 26 to 29 March. The group attended briefings and meetings at the U.S. Embassy, UAR Foreign Office, UAR Military Staff College and Arab League Council. On the evening of 28 March the group attended a dinner hosted by UAR Chief of Staff, General Aly Aly Amer. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Unofficial reaction to the visit appeared favorable. Members seemed pleased at the reception and association with UAR officials. The one exception was an over-long briefing at the Arab League. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Two UARAF Doctors to Visit U.S. in April.

Official invitations have been extended by the USAF Surgeon General to M/Gen. Mohamed Kamil Rifai and B/Gen. Abdul Hamid El Bishry. The two officers will be guests at the International Aerospace Medical Conference at Chicago from 17 to 27 April. The UARAF generals are expected to arrive in Washington on 16 April. (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Third All-African Peoples' Conference.

Heavy press coverage greeted the opening of the conference in Cairo on March 24 and 25. Al Akhbar wrote: "President Nasser's interest in personally opening the conference has its special significance...for he is considered by the African peoples as a symbol and hope on whom they can depend for the completion of their fight for independence. The convocation of the conference in Cairo has also its significance...for this is the biggest city in Africa and has become a refuge for the persecuted leaders..." Other papers, as well as Cairo Radio, labelled the conference as "a new cry in the battle of freedom of African peoples" and called upon the Arabs to provide the Africans with all the necessary aid, guidance and support which they may need in their liberation movement.

Among the resolutions passed by the conference was one calling for establishment of an all-African news agency and a special radio station to be called "Voice of Africa." The station, according to the resolution, will be located on the territory of an independent African country and strategically located to assure the most effective conduct of an anti-imperialistic campaign.

2. Laos
Citing George Allen's report, in which he described the Lao crisis as one of the world's most serious, weekly Akhbar, as well as other, Egyptian and Cairo Radio, as stated that Allen's report was a warning. American position on Laos received fairly adequate press coverage within the framework of heavy news volume on the Laos crisis in general. President "The success of the UAR program," concluded Mr. Nasser, "forced Britain to

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Nasser's meeting with Prince Souvanna Phouma was extensively reported. A joint communique was published in which the UAR position was restated and its support for the reactivation of the International Control Committee made public (see Political). At the same time, media refrained from criticizing the American position and, in some cases extended a qualified support. A Cairo Radio commentator, discussing President Kennedy's press conference, defined his stand as "prudent". "Since he does not want the situation to degenerate into an open war between East and West, he listened to the voices of his allies--the UK and France, which counselled calmness and patience--and since he realizes that Laos, being surrounded by communist powers, would offer more advantages to the Soviet Union than to the US should a fight erupt." Al Gomhouria, in an editorial entitled "An Opportunity Frustrated" stated: "A world war would have occurred in Laos had not the Soviet Union hastened to accept the proposals of the Western powers to arrange a cease-fire... This stand of the Soviet Union will give a new proof to the western powers of its desires to come to a peaceful understanding."

3. Disturbances in Baghdad.

Under such headlines as "Revolution in All of Iraq" and "Bloody Battles in Baghdad", the Cairo press reported, with evident satisfaction, anti-Qassem riots in the major cities of Iraq. Editorial comment suggested strongly that Qassem's troubles are due to deviation from the principles of the 1958 Revolution and that stability can only be achieved by adherence to the doctrines of Arab nationalism. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Army of Truth.

"Al-Iza'a" (weekly radio and television publication), taking a leaf from Kennedy's Peace Corps project, featured a two-page article on the Army of Truth, composed of 8500 UAR students studying abroad. According to the paper, the Information Department will initiate a project aiming at keeping the members of this army well informed on the following problems facing the Arabs: (a) Arab nationalism--Does it aim at the creation of an Arab empire? (b) Do the Arabs refuse to conclude peace with Israel? (c) What is the policy of positive neutrality and what would it mean in case of a world war? (d) Why does UAR refuse to repatriate Palestinian refugees? (e) Has the nationalization policy in the UAR affected foreign capital investment?

The answers to these questions are of vital importance and should be available to all members, stated the publication.

5. Effectiveness of Cairo Radio Program

Citing George Allen's report, in which he ranked the UAR radio programs as second among world broadcasting stations, weekly Akhar Saa quoted Taher, Director of Cairo Radio, as stating that Allen's report was aimed as a warning. The former Director of USIA wished to draw attention to the danger inherent in UAR-based programs "threatening imperialism in Africa and Asia". "The success of the UAR program," continued Mr. Taher, "forced Britain to

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spend 25 million pounds in one fiscal year to combat UAR influence in Africa". "Currently", the program director was quoted as saying, "80 announcers are working at Cairo Radio, beaming programs in French, English, Husa, Swahili, Somali, Anheri, Urdu, Greek, Italian, German and other languages- totalling 22 and covering seven regions of the world in Asia, Africa and Europe. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Family of Man Exhibit.

The "Family of Man" exhibit, which opened on March 25 in the Municipality Building of Cairo, received an unprecedented amount of publicity. Two and three column spreads in daily newspapers with pictures, a full page pictorial spread in the weekly "Al Mussawar", and extremely friendly and complimentary critiques appeared in the press. The exhibition drew average crowds of 500 visitors per day for the first few days-which is considered high in view of the location (13th floor of the Municipality Building) and the high caliber of visitors. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Charge' d'Affaires a.i.:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

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Political - CGStrong, DScott, RJBarrett, MSterner
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Air - Colonel Bechtel
USIS - ZNagorski

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	4-12-61		RM/R-2 Ref 1 CA-11 CU-5 TO-2 NEA-4 USIA-10 OSD-2 ARMY-35 NAVY-20 AIR-15

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 11

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POLITICAL

1. All African Peoples Conference.

The All African Peoples Conference which closed in Cairo last week (see Weekas 12 and 13) was notable for the sharp increase in militant, anti-Western African nationalism with racial overtones. The major shibboleth was "neo-colonialism", i.e., alleged Western political or economic domination after formal independence. The intense African emotional response to the Congo dominated the Conference atmosphere, adversely coloring the assessment of Western activities in Africa. The United States bore the brunt of the attack, but strong criticism of and disillusionment with the UN was also prominent. There was no clear criticism of Communist penetration in Africa, and there was considerable sentiment friendly to cooperation with the Sino-Soviet Bloc.

Though the Conference will be cited as an example of African unity, it was far from united. The Embassy has been reliably informed that some delegations (e.g. Liberia and Sierra Leone) voted against the resolutions on the Congo, UN, Cameroun and parts of the neo-colonialism resolution and that several others abstained on the first two resolutions. The economic resolution was completely re-done to eliminate many extreme portions (such as attacks on the Peace Corps and on the IBRD). Conflicts with delegations (e.g. Zanzibar and Kenya) also broke into the open. There was a strong open dispute between Somaila and Ethiopia that kept the Conference from adopting any resolution on this subject.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Despite the fact that the Conference was not fully unified or representative and that it was steered by more extreme elements, the Embassy believes it must be taken seriously as reflecting the increasingly militant and anti-Western (particularly anti-American) character of African nationalism. The tone of the Conference did not bode well for the European-American position in Africa. The emotional context was so strong that the moderates obviously felt unable to stand up against the tide, for to have done so would have compromised them as imperialist or American stooges. Moderate African governments willing to cooperate with the West seem likely to be increasingly on the defensive under similar pressures from the more radical elements in their countries and elsewhere in Africa.

2. UAR Delegation to Accra Conference of "Casablanca" Foreign Ministers

A 14-man UAR delegation headed by Mohmoud Riad, Nasser's advisor on foreign affairs, left for Accra on April 4 to attend meetings of the Casablanca Conference Committee. The UAR delegation includes foreign affairs specialists, economists, military officers, and educators. According to the Cairo press the committee's work will be divided up into four fields: political, military, economic, and cultural. Also according to the press, the African High Command called for at Casablanca will be set up. (See Military). (UNCLASSIFIED)

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3. PAG Officials in Cairo Pleased about US Mediation in Algeria Negotiations

In several conversations with Embassy officers, representatives of the Provisional Algerian Government's "Foreign Ministry" indicated that they were pleased to hear that the US had taken steps to influence the course of events in the French-Algerian talks, as indicated by the report that Ambassador Walmsley had met with PAG Information Minister Yazid. As the Embassy has reported, Algerians in Cairo have felt for some time that a more active American role would be necessary if discussions with the French were not to bog down; such action on our part would be in our own interests, stated one Algerian official, since the failure of the negotiations would leave Algeria no choice but to "internationalize" the war.

Even the Cairo press, usually happy to seize any opportunity to criticize the US, expressed moderate approval of American mediation, provided, of course, it is based on the Algerians' right to self-determination and is not a device to assist de Gaulle. (See Psychological) (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. UAR-Jordan Relations Improve

After an exchange of conciliatory letters, apparently the first of a series, between King Hussein and President Nasser, the propaganda warfare between Jordan and the UAR has died down. Another result of the letters, according to press reports, was that news of the reconciliation brought cheering crowds into the streets in Jordan, with pictures of Hussein and Nasser in evidence. Cairo's reaction was considerably more restrained, being largely restricted to newspaper stories on the contents of the letters, with little editorial comment. (UNCLASSIFIED)

A source close to Nasser (Ahram editor Haikal) injected a somewhat discordant note by observing to a USIS officer that he had been astonished at the Jordanian reaction and talk of "rapprochement". Actually, he said, Nasser's letter was a slap at Hussein, since it reaffirmed the UAR's position on neutrality and conceded nothing. The Jordanian Charge' in Cairo also confided his view that Nasser's reply to Hussein is a trap and that the King would be well advised to proceed with caution, since Nasser's objectives have not changed. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. National Union Prepares for Regional Conference in June.

Kamal al-Din Hussein, Supervisor General of the National Union, has been holding meetings during the last two weeks attended by the southern region Governors, certain regional ministers concerned with economic development, the heads of National Union committees in the Governorates, and the Directors of the permanent National Union offices in Cairo, in order to prepare for the second General Conference of the National Union for the Egyptian Region. It has been announced that the Conference will open on June 19. According to the press, the subjects which the conference will give most attention to are problems of housing, agriculture and irrigation, labor, and industrialization

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in the villages.

Hussein is also beginning to make a methodical tour of each of the governorates in the southern regions to attend National Union conferences at the governorate level, and investigate to what extent projects recommended by last year's regional Conference have been carried out. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: It is apparent, even from press treatment of this recent flurry of National Union activity, that implementation of development projects in the provinces has not been entirely satisfactory during the past year. Hussein's trips to the governorates, in the company of appropriate regional ministers, appear to be last minute efforts to complete certain specified projects and to inaugurate others so that the forthcoming regional Conference will have some results to point to. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

6. Bloc Visitors in Egypt

Springtime is bringing a heavy influx of Soviet Bloc delegations and high ranking officials to Egypt. In addition to a six-man Russian planning delegation which, according to the press, is here in order to discuss UAR planning projects, particularly those related to the War Ministry, a team of experts in dams and electrical equipment, headed by the Deputy Soviet Minister of Power Stations, arrived on April 1 to review work on the Aswan Dam. The Soviet Minister of Communications is due to arrive in Cairo on April 7. It was also announced in the press that the Soviet "Minister of Fleets", accompanied by eight senior naval officers, would stop off on April 11 for a two-day visit of the Suez Canal area. The naval delegation is returning from having attended the ceremonies for the opening of the new Russian-built port at Hodeida, Yemen. There have also been a number of technical delegations from Bloc countries which have come in connection with Bloc exhibits at the Agricultural Fair.

In addition, the UAR National Assembly recently played host to two Soviet Bloc parliamentary delegations. A ten-man Czech parliamentary group, led by Speaker of the Czech National Assembly, arrived on April 4 for a seven-day tour of the Southern Region. A seven-man Bulgarian parliamentary delegation, likewise headed by the Speaker, arrived for an official visit on March 31, departing April 3. The press has announced that a UAR National Assembly delegation, headed by Speaker Sadat, will return these visits during the coming summer. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Troop Movements in CAIRO AREA

Military traffic in the CAIRO area increased considerably during the past week. Principal flow has been between the military camps east of CAIRO (AL MAZA and HUCKSTEP) and the camps in the pyramids area. Traffic has been in both directions and included personnel and artillery (both field artillery and anti-aircraft, but predominately the latter.) (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Comment: Unable to deduct significance at this time other than movement is related to field exercises on battalion, possibly brigade, level. The desert East and West of CAIRO, and immediately adjacent thereto, is normally used as exercise areas. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. African Joint High Command to be Studied

Local press reported that experts of the "Casablanca Powers" began a three-day meeting in ACCRA on April 6, 1961. Delegates will be divided into four committees, one of which will examine military problems, i.e. common defense and security in Africa in case of aggression and methods by which the independence of African States can be safeguarded. Press further stated that the results of the military committee studies will take the establishment of the proposed African Joint High Command a step nearer to realization.

Comment: Basic problems to be resolved include the definition of broad objectives and agreement on a source of material. Numerous other problems, however, would still remain: i.e., size and organization, representation, rotation (if any) of commanders, location of permanent headquarters, and the concessions inherent to all the above. (CONFIDENTIAL)

AIR

1. New Czech Light Aircraft Demonstrated in Cairo

On Wednesday, 5 April, at 1600 hours, a flight demonstration was given at Imbaba Airfield, Cairo. This was sponsored by the Director of United Arab Airlines and the Czech Commercial Attache to the UAR. The Aircraft shown was the L-200-A "MORAVA". It is a twin-engine, 5 seat, executive type aircraft similar to the U.S. Cessna 310 model. The plane is on a demonstration tour of the Middle and Far East. The aircraft is piloted by the Company test pilot from the National Aircraft works at Kunovice. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: There is no indication whether the UAR will purchase any of these aircraft for transport, aerial ambulance, or photo service. It is believed that the plane is only on a routine show tour similar to any other aggressive company selling tour. (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. UAR Press--A period of Restraint--

During the week under review Cairo media refrained from its usual anti-western vituperation and centered their attention upon domestic developments. Budgetary deliberations, economic prospects in the future, coupled with extensive quotes from Ambassador Reinhardt's favorable comments made in Washington, occupied most of the newspaper space. In a rather mild tone some of the papers scored Time magazine for printing an "unjust and false" story about the waning star of President Nasser.

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Comment: At the time of writing, current issue of Time containing the article is not available in Cairo. According to some reports it will not be on sale at all.

2. Soviet Diplomat's Adventures: Press Reaction

A colorful story describing a Soviet Vice-Consul from Port Said getting drunk in the middle of Cairo, then sitting naked on a busy Cairo sidewalk, appeared on the front page of an early April 6 edition of Akhbar. The diplomat, according to the story, visited Casino Kasr El Nil, leased by the Soviet Pavilion of the International Agricultural Fair, and upon leaving the restaurant appeared to have been "attacked with a fit of drunkenness." The naked diplomat was delivered by the police to the Soviet Embassy.

Comment: The item appeared only in the first edition of Akhbar. Later editions omitted it entirely. No other paper carried the story.

3. US Mediation in Algerian Negotiations

Al Gomhouria, commenting on reports of US mediations in the Algerian conflict, stated: "America has intervened in the grave crisis which had arisen again (in Algeria)...Free Arabs everywhere welcome any mediation designed to create a better atmosphere...If America really wishes to save the situation, and if the American President intends to live up to his earlier declarations....all Arabs would welcome the move...If, however, mediation is aimed at facilitating DeGaulle's colonialist tasks...it is bound to end in a total failure."

4. UAR Department of Information Plans Extensive Overseas Campaign

An airlift of 10,000 books per week on the UAR, pictures depicting UAR progress, building up a world-wide mailing list of important personalities, organizing special courses for UAR students going abroad and the opening of the "Army of Truth" offices in Port Said, Suez and Alexandria are the highlights of a new program blueprinted by the Department of Information and reported by Cairo press.

The purpose of the new activities is to provide better information overseas and to visiting foreigners about the UAR, its policy and economic developments. No UAR student will be permitted to leave the country without going through a course organized by the Department. Foreign ships passing through the Suez Canal will be boarded by the members of the Army of Truth who will distribute booklets, pamphlets and other publications describing the UAR.

5. Agricultural Fair--A USIS Newsstand--

A newsstand featuring USIS publications-- books, pamphlets, periodicals-- has been erected on the site of the Agricultural Fair, near the American Pavilion. The booth attracts considerable attention, and USIS-Cairo plans to secure additional books from neighboring Arab posts. An independent Egyptian

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contractor is in full charge of the operation; books are sold at a minimum price of PT one, two and three (between 2.5 and 7 cents) each. Back copies of Al Hayat Fi Amerika are also on sale.

6. Family of Man Exhibit

The exhibit draws an average of 800 people per day, an extremely high number in view of other attractions in town (Agricultural Fair) and the location (13th floor of the Municipality Building). The Ministry of Education sent a circular to Cairo schools drawing their attention to the show, and organized groups of high school children to come daily to visit the exhibit.

The exhibit elicited most favorable press comments. Numerous visitors approach American personnel on duty, expressing their gratitude for the "excellence" of the event and for bringing it to Cairo.

7. New Relay Station for Transmission of Voice of Arab Programs

Installation in Egypt of the third most powerful relay station in the world is nearing completion, according to a feature carried in daily Al Ahram on April 1. This station, third only in power to Radio Moscow and the Voice of America according to the paper, will be the highest relay station in Asia and Africa (approximately 750 feet high) and will provide Egypt with a total transmitting power of 1,000 kw. Built on an area of 160 acres near the town of Mansoura, the installation will have several aerials, each made up of 21 antenna, approximately 36 feet long, and weighing 70 tons. The equipment was purchased by Egypt from Czechoslovakia four years ago with Czech technicians supervising the installation. The new station is expected to relay the transmission of the Voice of Arabs eastward with the target area to include remote places in Asia and to extend as far as Tokyo and Peking. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Charge' d'Affaires a.i.:

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Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

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APR. 15 1961

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JOINT WEEKA NO. 15

APR. 15 NSG-4 CW 16

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POLITICAL

1. Political Lull - National Assembly Begins New Session.

The political scene, particularly in foreign affairs, experienced a lull as the government's attention focused on final preparation of the budget for submission to the National Assembly and on activating the National Union in anticipation of the annual National Union conferences scheduled for June and July. UAR propaganda has relegated foreign matters to second place (except for the Soviet achievement of putting a man in space) in order to stress the new budget and related themes of internal economic progress (see Economic Bi-Weeks April 14, 1961).

On April 11 the National Assembly opened its third session of the 1960-61 parliamentary year after a recess of two months. The first order of business was a speech by Minister of Economy KAISSOUNI in which he presented the government's budget. Consideration of the budget will be the Assembly's main task this session, but the Assembly will also go ahead with the drafting of a permanent Constitution for the UAR (See WEEK 4).
(UNCLASSIFIED)

2. North Vietnamese Delegation Discusses UAR-North Vietnam Relations.

A North Vietnamese trade delegation arrived in Cairo for a 7-day visit on April 10. The head of the delegation is given by the press as Ing Van KIM. Kim has been identified in some news articles as the Minister of Foreign Trade and in others as the Foreign Minister (Statesman's Yearbook lists another man as Foreign Minister). According to the press, Kim and his delegation have been having talks with UAR economic officials for the purpose of concluding a trade and payments agreement between the UAR and North Vietnam.

On April 13 Nasser received Kim. Kim announced to the press afterwards that he had extended an invitation to Nasser from Ho Chi Minh to visit Vietnam and that Nasser had accepted and had promised to make the visit sometime next year. According to Kim, Nasser also extended an invitation to Ho Chi Minh to visit the UAR. The press also reported that Kim had a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Zulficar SABRI during which the subject of diplomatic relations between the UAR and Vietnam was discussed. According to the report Kim offered Sabri 3 alternative proposals: (1) that the UAR recognize Vietnam and exchange representatives at the Embassy or Legation level; (2) that Vietnam transform her commercial office in Cairo into a Consulate General (as, for example, it has in Vietnam, India and Indonesia); (3) that the UAR recognize both North Vietnam and South Vietnam simultaneously.

Kim told an "Ahram" correspondent that Sabri told him that the UAR could not agree to the last proposal, since in the opinion of the UAR to recognize two governments which represent only one people would have the effect of intensifying the cold war. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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3. Accra Meeting of Casablanca Conference Nations.

In a press conference on April 12 on his return from the meeting of experts of the Casablanca powers in Accra, Mahmoud RIAD, Political Counselor at the Presidency, who had been elected chairman of the meeting, described it as very successful. He commented particularly on the full cooperation of the Tunisian delegation "which did not object to the proposal made by Ghana to give the chairmanship of the meeting to the representative of the United Arab Republic." Riad also said that the Committee of Experts would hold a meeting in Cairo on April 27 to be followed on April 30 by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Casablanca powers. The purpose of these meetings would be to complete the drafting of regulations of the African Charter and its annexes, to ratify the Charter and put it into force, and to agree on the formation of the various subcommittees and on the date and venue of each. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Ambassador of Gizenga Government Presents Credentials to Nasser.

On April 13 Salmone Fall (also known as Salmone Fale, Val Salimu, Suliman Val) presented his credentials to Nasser as "first Ambassador of the Central Government of the Congo to the UAR." While this was a logical consequence of UAR recognition of the Gizenga regime, it is not clear why the action was taken now. Presumably it was difficult to resist Congolese and/or Bloc pressures. At the same time the UAR might find it useful as a diplomatic foot in the door of any future country-wide Congolese regime. There is still no sign of the UAR accrediting an Ambassador to Stanleyville though there are reports of UAR army officers there. Reportedly Fall is about 44, Senegalese, studied in Paris, has a wife in Dakar, and bears a Congolese (Leopoldville) passport. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. UAR Parliamentary Delegation to Go to Soviet Union.

The press reported that a UAR Parliamentary delegation will leave Cairo on April 27 for Moscow (WEEK 14). The delegation, to be headed by Speaker Anwar SADAT is expected to spend 15 days in the Soviet Union visiting the Soviet republics. The group will also attend the May First celebrations in Moscow. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Armored Field Exercises.

Field exercises involving the major armored units of the UAR Second Army began the weekend of April 8. Indications are that the 2nd Armored Brigade and the 4th Armored Division (less 1st Armored Brigade) are conducting a field problem in the desert area along the Cairo-Suez Road east of Cairo. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Comment: Sightings of accidents and wrecks along the Cairo-Suez Road indicate that the UAR is still experiencing difficulties in the movement of armor on the country's narrow roads. How long this exercise will last or whether this exercise will develop into a larger combined arms maneuver is unknown. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Arab Chiefs of Staff to Meet in Cairo.

The local press reports that the Arab League Council decided to convene the Military Advisory Council in Cairo on April 22, and invited the Chiefs of Staff of the Arab States armies to attend. According to the press the mission of the Military Council will be to discuss reports submitted by Arab Governments on Palestine and to "formulate a joint unified Arab plan regarding Palestine, and implement the joint defense pact signed by 6 States: UAR, Jordan, Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, and invite the Sudan, Maghreb, Tunis and Libya to sign the pact." It was further decided to convene the Supreme Defense Council consisting of Arab Ministers of War and Foreign Affairs taking practical steps towards implementing what was agreed upon by the Arab Chiefs of Staff. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The best local guess is that the purpose of the meeting may be to prepare a joint military plan to be implemented if Israel should attempt to divert the Jordan River. (CONFIDENTIAL)

AIR

1. UAR Air Force Surgeon General Tours U.S.

Major General Kamel Refai and Brigadier Bishri, Surgeon General, UAR Air Force, and Deputy, respectively, departed Cairo April 12 for Washington, DC, as guests of the USAF Surgeon General, Major General Niess, on a tour of medical, research and aerospace medicine training facilities throughout the U.S. The UARAF doctors will attend the annual meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association in Chicago as part of this tour. (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Soviet Space Man.

All papers April 13 hailed editorially the Soviet achievement as one of the outstanding feats of human history. The interesting angle of editorial comments was the fact that human rather than national aspects of the event were underlined. Taking cue from Nasser's congratulatory telegram to Khrushchev, the papers said: "Man has entered the universe around him as a man not as a Russian", ("Egyptian Gazette"); "This triumph is not only a victory for the Soviet people alone but is also a victory brought by the Soviet people for the entire human race", ("Al Ahram");

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"The world in the space age is no more the possession of one nation or group of nations; it is now the property of the entire human race," ("Akhbar"). The papers also stated definitely that the Soviet Union had won the space race with the United States.

The following day an anti-American note appeared in the press treatment. Two Cairo dailies published a picture of President Kennedy, his face distorted by anger, captioned: "News of the space man reflected on Kennedy's face." Editorially "Gumhuriya" said that the Soviet achievement silences "the death mongers in the Pentagon and Wall Street." (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Heikal Outlines Dangers Threatening Peace.

Mohamed Hassanein Heikal, in his weekly editorial, outlined in "Abram" on April 14, nine dangers threatening world peace. Among them: (a) Alliance between the financial and military machinery in the U.S. (59 percent of U.S. budget for defense; 88 percent of research funds appropriated for military purposes; three and one-half million government employees associated with the military); (b) President Kennedy's youth. His recklessness is made by U.S. propaganda to appear as contrast to Eisenhower's weakness. Such recklessness is dangerous when applied to world affairs; (c) Foreign military bases scattered all over the world. Example: Baghdad Pact and military bases in Iran; (d) Imperialism of Shah of Iran resting on U.S. support; (e) World Zionism; (f) Imperialism as manifested in the Congo, Algeria and Rhodesia; (g) Communist dangers manifested by activities of communist organizations.

Heikal writes: "The sweeping current of unity in Syria succeeded in eradicating this danger. Those (Communist) organizations concentrate their efforts on involving the Soviet Union in their activities. As a matter of fact the Soviet Union is among the greatest anti-imperialistic forces and, with its spectacular scientific achievements, bears a great responsibility for humanity. It is thus very essential that the nations struggling against imperialism should have faith in Russia." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Heikal's article reflects once again the regime's distrust of the United States, an attempt to divorce local communism from the Soviet Union, and an expression of President Nasser's philosophy that his cooperation with the Soviet Union does not preclude his anti-communist stand. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. Eichmann Trial.

The Eichmann trial has received wide coverage in all papers. A two-page article in the English language "Arab Observer" offered a spirited defense of Eichmann, citing numerous statements from the world press, including "Life" Magazine, as to the flimsiness of the accusation. "Gumhuriya" echoed the "Arab Observer" by editorializing: "This morning Israel, supported by its propaganda, will stage a new farce and call it the Eichmann trial ... (the

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Israelis) ... have no right to try the accused for a crime which is over 15 years old. Moreover, they do not have the possibility of proving the crime, and the accused does not have a chance to defend himself." (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. BBC To Re-Open Cairo Office.

According to "Rose El Youssef" the BBC Cairo office will be reopened shortly. From other sources it is learned that a representative of BBC has recently signed a series of contracts with Egyptian artists and writers for future contributions to the BBC Arabic service. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The local BBC stringer denied the story. (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. UAR Information Centers Abroad.

A brief news item appeared in Cairo newspapers announcing the future opening of UAR Information Centers in 30 nations, the majority of which will be African and Latin American countries. The centers are to be opened as of July 1, 1961. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Cuban Ambassador Attacks Kennedy.

Weekly "Rose El Youssef" quoted the Cuban Ambassador in Cairo as responding to the American pamphlet on Cuba by counterattacking the U.S. According to the paper, he stated: "The Americans' support non-democratic movements in the world, help fascism in Spain and imperialistic reactionists in France and Belgium. They are responsible for Lumumba's death and the massacre in Algeria." (UNCLASSIFIED)

7. Eisenhower to Visit the UAR.

"Akhbar El Yom" reports widespread speculation that former President Eisenhower has received an invitation to visit the UAR shortly. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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From Ambassy Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Pro-Castro Campaign.

The news that anti-Castro forces had made landings on Cuba touched off a heavy political and propaganda campaign in support of Castro and against the US. On April 19 the National Union organized a demonstration (consisting at the most of 1000 persons - mostly Egyptian students) which first gathered to hear a speech by National Union Supervisor General Kamal al-Din HUSSEIN and then proceeded to the Cuban Embassy, where placards bearing Castro's picture were held aloft and slogans denouncing the US were shouted. The police deployed a heavy guard to keep the demonstrators from passing near the US Embassy, but it is also clear that an attack on the Embassy had definitely been excluded from the day's activities by the demonstration's organizers (Embtel 1725). (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Further elements in the campaign of support for Castro were (a) a message from Nasser to Castro on April 18, in which Nasser stressed that Egypt had gone through the same ordeal that Castro was now facing, and that it would stand staunchly by its friend (Embtel 1720); (b) a National Assembly resolution echoing the President's words; (c) a press campaign which sharply and voluminously attacked the US; (d) the cancellation of a Michigan University band performance at Cairo University (see Psychological); (e) a joint Nasser-Tito communique on Cuba (see below). (UNCLASSIFIED)

Aided by the full support of the UAR Government, Cuban Ambassador Rivera lost no time in making nickels for Castro on the diplomatic front. He paid calls on a number of senior UAR officials for the purpose, according to the press, of explaining that the US claim of non-intervention was false. He opened a book at his Embassy in which "friends in the diplomatic corps" could register their support for Castro. He publicly announced his Government's thanks for Nasser's message to Castro and stated that Cuba would not soon forget the stand which the UAR was taking. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Despite the fact that Nasser has mounted a major campaign of support for Castro, it is clear that it has not been an all-out campaign on the scale of the February actions over the Congo situation. The April 19 demonstration was a tame affair compared to the one that took place when Lumumba's death was announced, and it is clear that on this occasion care was taken to ensure that no physical damage was done to the US Embassy. Furthermore, the press, while castigating the US in no uncertain terms, has on the whole used somewhat less virulent language than, for example, during peak attacks on King Hussein, the Shah of Iran, or in the Congo situation. In our view, this element of restraint is not unrelated to important PL-480 negotiations which are on the not-too-distant horizon. (Embtel 1734). (CONFIDENTIAL)

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2. Tito Visit.

Tito arrived in the UAR on April 17. He spent two days in the Alexandria area with Nasser, following which the two Presidents came to Cairo on April 19. Tito issued a statement on April 18 characterizing events in Cuba as "not only an aggression against Cuba and its independence, but also a serious attack on world peace." Nasser and Tito followed this with a joint statement the next day. They claimed that Cuban independence had been attacked by "acts of foreign intervention through the supply of arms and other aids to invading elements and the use of foreign territory", and expressed their "determination to take all available measures and extend every possible help with a view to a prompt stopping of foreign intervention in Cuba." The Presidents are reportedly also considering a wide range of international topics (Congo, Algeria, Africa, etc.), including "a study of measures to be taken to protect small countries from the type of aggression to which Cuba has just been subjected." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: In spite of popular demonstrations put on for Tito's arrival (see Psychological), on the whole the Tito visit seems to have been given somewhat more cursory treatment than the UAR usually accords to a visiting foreign leader. As a subject of press interest, his visit of course has been over-shadowed by the UAR's propaganda campaign on Cuba. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. Iraq-UAR Relations.

In two separate conversations with Embassy officers, Iraqi Charge Najim el Din HAMMOUDI stressed his belief that no significant improvement in the strained relationship between Iraq and the UAR is imminent. He indicated that in his view anti-Qassem propaganda in the Cairo press has not slackened off. He feels also that an exchange of Ambassadors is not likely in the near future. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

4. National Union Regional Conferences and General Congress Postponed.

The National Union has announced that this year's regional conferences and General Congress, originally scheduled for June and July, have been postponed until October. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: As mentioned in the Embassy's last WEEKA, the National Union has been attempting to make up for a year of dormancy with a last-minute burst of activity so that the annual popular conferences could be held on schedule. The postponement evidently reflects the decision that there is not enough time between now and June to prepare adequately for them. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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MILITARY

ARMY

1. Visit of U.S. Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Thirty-five members of the Middle East and Southeast Asia Section of the Industrial College of the U.S. Armed Forces, headed by Lt. General George W. Mundy, visited the Southern Region of the UAR during the period April 14-17. All contacts with Egyptian military and civilian officers were very cordial and frank. The visit included trips to the Helwan Steel Mill, the El Kubra Textile Plant, briefings by the Ministries of Economy and Industry, and an official dinner hosted by Lt. General Ali Ali Amer, Chief of Staff of the UAR Armed Forces. (UNCLASSIFIED)

AIR - Negative.

NAVY - Negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Cuba.

The Cuban incident served to unleash another violent attack against the United States, triggered by an official statement made by Minister of State Abdul Kader Hatem. Press and radio accused America of preparing and mounting the invasion. A number of American flags displayed throughout the city in connection with the Agricultural Fair were either removed or covered up; two concerts of the Michigan University Symphonic Band were cancelled - one by the Governor of Alexandria, the other by the Rector of Cairo University; the press reported (inaccurately) that the Port Said lecture by Munroe Leaf was boycotted by the public; anti-American demonstrations took place in Cairo, but the demonstrators were not allowed to approach the Embassy. When reports of Castro's victory reached Cairo, lengthy editorials continued to belittle the United States, to call America "a second class power" and to compare positive accomplishments of the Soviet space man with negative efforts of John Kennedy.

At the outset of the Cuban invasion editorials compared the Cuban aggression to that of Suez in 1956. Hassanein Heikal, in his weekly editorial, recalled John Foster Dulles' efforts to threaten Egypt in order to force her to back out of the arms deal with Czechoslovakia. When Nasser nationalized the Canal, wrote Heikal, the storm broke out. Similarities are striking - Cuba before Castro was a U.S. colony; most of the Cuban land was owned by U.S. companies; the national wealth of Cuban people went to the rich and fat neighbor. Now Kennedy is trying desperately to restore the status quo.

The Cairo press did not stop at the accusation of U.S. involvement in the Cuban operation. It went further by declaring that Kennedy's reply to

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Khrushchev was "brusque and unhelpful" and that America is fully responsible for the dangers to peace of the world emerging from the Cuban situation. "Gumhuriya" wrote a couple of days prior to the invasion's collapse: "Should the invasion fail, Kennedy will have lowered the prestige of the United States to the mire ... Should it succeed Kennedy will have given material proof of American involvement." "Akhbar" added the following comment: "If America believes in the law of the jungle, then it is the world's good fortune that she is not the strongest of the beasts."

UAR Television announced plans to have a special TV show on April 2 featuring "effects of U.S. bombing of Havana" and a display of U.S. manufactured arms captured by Castro's forces.

In the English-language "Egyptian Gazette" of April 20, an American negro, David DuBois, published a letter to the editor attacking the United States government, accusing it of aggressive steps in Cuba and speaking on behalf of "America's 20 million negroes." DuBois wrote, among other things: "(We) are familiar with this government that speaks out of two sides of its mouth ... with Cuba as indeed with America's 20 million negroes, the issue is not communism; the issue is freedom and independence ... in order for America to win the rest of the world's people of color and of honest people the world over, she must realize that this is the course of history. Not within her own borders, in the Congo, in Laos or in Cuba can she order this course. Her attempts to do so, however, camouflaged, shall only lead to her destruction." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: David DuBois is an American negro, son of the well-known pro-communist, W.E.B. DuBois. According to the Embassy's records, he went to China, grew disillusioned, and came to Cairo where he secured a position as a lecturer in American literature at Cairo University. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Soviet Man in Space.

The announcements about the Soviet victory in space, reported in last week's Weeka, were followed by more editorials, and feature articles in major weeklies, including a nine-page spread in the pictorial weekly "Al Mussawar", and reports on tributes paid to the first spaceman. Cairo Radio, in one of its commentaries, said: "The launching of man into space has drawn the attention of the world to the Soviet Union. Among the results of this achievement will be the liquidation of military bases and alliances which have lost their "raison d'etre". The Voice of Arabs added: "USSR now possesses a new power with which it can threaten the U.S." "Gumhuriya" published an editorial in which it speculated that the USSR and socialist states may assume tougher attitudes toward the West. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. President Tito in the UAR.

The arrival of President Tito on a six-day visit to the United Arab Republic was hailed as another proof of unity between the two neutralist leaders. "Akhbar" wrote: "There is a striking resemblance between Yugoslavia

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and the UAR." "Gumhuriya" added: "UAR-Yugoslav relations are based upon mutuality of objectives and solidarity behind the ideas of liberty and peace. The two countries also represent the free conscience of the world."

On the day of pro-Cuban demonstrations, there were also demonstrations in honor of President Tito upon his arrival in Cairo, with the same trucks and other vehicles used to transport cheering citizens into downtown Cairo.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

4. U.S. Contribution For the Preservation of Nubian Monuments.

"Ahram", commenting upon President Kennedy's announcement that the U.S. is willing to contribute 10 million dollars for the saving of the Nubian monuments, had the first favorable word for the U.S. to appear in the press in a long time: "Despite the difference between us and America, we appreciate the human spirit which motivated the Americans to take this decision. This attitude points toward ample possibilities for constructive cooperation between the American and UAR peoples in the interest of progress and humanity."
(UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen

Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

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Army - Lt. Colonel Joy
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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy CAIRO 888

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. May 4, 1961

REF : DATE

9 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	I N F O	
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From: Amembassy CATRO

POLITICAL

1. Israeli Espionage Ring Uncovered.

The Government disclosed to the press April 28 the first information about a roundup which took place last January of a group of UAR nationals and foreigners who are charged with spying for Israel. The leader of the eight-man ring is alleged to be Jean Thomas, a UAR citizen of Armenian extraction. The foreigners involved are Thomas' wife, a German national who was in Germany when the group was arrested (she will be tried in absentia) and another member of the ring who is described in the press as Turkish (not clear whether he is a Turkish national). The group had reportedly amassed a collection of 5000 photographed documents relating to defense secrets and were on the verge of smuggling them out when the UAR General Intelligence Agency rounded the group up. The leaders of the group had been trained, according to reports of Thomas' testimony, by Israeli agents in Europe. A key man in the affair was Major Adib Kiyrullos, who pretended to be getting information for the ring but was actually loyal and gave detailed information on the ring to the G.I.A.

Kiyrullos is reported to have testified that at one point Thomas told him information which he produced would be "given to an employee of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo who will send them out in the diplomatic bag." Another member of the ring testified that Thomas told him that what information he produced would "be in the interests of the US". These references to the U.S. have been a very minor part of the testimonies and so far the press has made no attempt to play them up. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The features of this case bear many similarities to the Israeli espionage case which was disclosed to the public at exactly this time last year. Since the arrests in this year's case were made in January, the regime has probably timed its disclosure to the public and the accompanying big play in the press with the intention of detracting somewhat from the propaganda mileage Israel is getting out of the Eichmann trial. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Meeting of "Casablanca Powers" Foreign Ministers.

The Foreign Ministers of the "Casablanca Powers" assembled in Cairo on April 30 to examine the draft protocol of the African Charter. Experts from the several countries met earlier on April 27 to work out details of the document. Present are the Foreign Ministers of Ghana (chairman), Guinea, Mali, Morocco, and the UAR, and Algerian "Information Minister" Yazid. The press states that Libya has apologized for non-attendance. Whether Tunisian representatives were expected and, if so, why they have not appeared, has not been clarified in the press reports on the meeting. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Negative.

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3. Speculations About Possible Conference of Neutralist Leaders.

There are a number of indications that Nasser is planning to organize a conference of neutralist leaders (perhaps in Cairo) sometime before the next UNGA session. Although there has been no official announcement here, it is evident that Nasser and Tito must have sent letters to neutralist leaders calling for the conference. Cairo press has given minor play to AP stories from Phnom Penh to the effect that Prince Sihanouk has accepted the Nasser-Tito invitation, and a story appeared in the Damascus press saying that Sukarno, Mkrumah, Sekou Toure, as well as Algerian Government representatives, are expected to participate in such a conference. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MILITARY

ARMY

Negative.

AIR

1. UAR-Israeli Air Battle.

UAR claims that at 1000 hours on April 28 four Israeli fighters flew over the armistice line near Auja and were intercepted by two MIGs. According to the UAR, reinforcements joined both sides to the extent that eight UAR and twelve Israeli planes were involved. UAR claims that the Israeli aircraft were driven back with one fighter shot down in flames. UAR press states that one MIG was damaged, but returned to its base. (UNCLASSIFIED)

A report from Tel Aviv states that, according to the Israeli Foreign Liaison Office, one group of two MIG-17s penetrated the Israeli border near Nitsana on April 28. The MIGs were intercepted by two Super Mysteres and, in maneuvering to get away, one MIG pilot ejected after losing control of his plane. The MIG crashed, scattering parts over a wide area on both sides of the border. The pilot was picked up by United Nations personnel. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: It is believed here that the Israeli claim is valid in view of the fact that no UARAF pilot has been pointed up as a "hero" of the air battle. This is the usual practice when the UAR makes a valid kill. (CONFIDENTIAL)

NAVY

Negative.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Cuba.

Anti-American editorials continued to appear on the subject of Cuba, although the full weight of the earlier campaign had been relieved by editorialists' attention to other subjects. Bahai al-Din in "Akhbar" gave an almost full translation of the "Time" Magazine article on the Cuban episode, including its detailed material on the CIA. Cairo's political weekly, "Rose El Youssef", discussed the Cuban angle in different terms. Describing the U.S. Embassy's efforts to publish and circulate the "White Paper on Cuba", the leftist publication described a meeting which took place between the Chargé d'Affaires and a Foreign Ministry official upon the latter's request. Said the official, according to "Rose El Youssef": "Cairo masses are greatly indignant with the Kennedy administration ... If the Embassy wishes to publish that paper (The White Paper) the government has no objection ... but the safety of the Embassy cannot be guaranteed." In answer to that threat, "Rose El Youssef" said, the Chargé d'Affaires agreed to stop further circulation of the paper. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Soviet Union Complains About West German Agricultural Pavilion.

According to "Rose El Youssef", the Cultural Officer of the Soviet Embassy in Cairo protested to the Foreign Office about the West German Pavilion at the Agricultural Fair displaying a map in which East Germany and part of Poland were marked as a zone of Soviet occupation. The Soviet diplomat, according to the weekly, also pointed out that the Arabic press sometimes publishes news items hostile to the Soviet Union. The diplomat was informed that most of the Arabic language newspapers in Cairo depend for their foreign service on western news agencies. The Soviet diplomat in reply promised to install Tass Agency tickers in Cairo newspaper offices. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Israeli Spy Ring.

The latest of the series of Israeli spy rings prominently occupied front page space in Cairo newspapers this week. (See Political). (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Foreign Assistance to the UAR.

Cairo press reported on May 1 extensively on the press conference organized by the Central Minister of Industry who outlined the progress of industrial development in the country. He listed foreign countries which contributed to these developments, ranking U.S. as fourth after West Germany, the Soviet Union, and Italy with 28 projects and 10 million pounds' worth of equipment. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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5. King Hussein's Engagement.

The propaganda truce between the UAR and Jordan apparently still operative, the press on the whole reported the announcement of King Hussein's engagement in straightforward fashion, with no comments. "Akhbar" was the only paper that could not resist giving the story an unfavorable slant by innuendo, headlined "Antoinette Shakes the Jordanian Throne" (in what appeared to be a comparison with the young lady's famous 18th century namesake) and reported that her father was the owner of a "saloon". (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

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FROM : Amembassy Cairo

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DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

May 18, 1961

DATE _____

REF

MAY 23 1961

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NSA-4

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2. UAR and Guinea Sign Military Cooperation Pact

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Sekou Toure
2. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge in Cairo

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POLITICAL

1. Non-Aligned States Summit Conference

Preparations went ahead for the proposed conference for non-aligned states. A press report from Djakarta stated that Sukarno would join Nasser and Tito as a co-sponsor of the conference. A preparatory conference, reportedly to be composed of Ambassadors in Cairo or special representatives from the participating nations, is scheduled to open in Cairo on June 5 according to the press. Press reports tend to confirm information which the Embassy had received from other sources that consideration is being given to the invitation of several European non-aligned states, Sweden and Finland being the states most often mentioned by the press. There is no indication, however, that so far the original list of 21 invitees (see last WEEKA) has been enlarged to include any other countries. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

of the Foreign Ministry
According to the Director of the Asian Department/(May 18), acceptances have been received from all invitees with the exception of Venezuela. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Minister of Presidential Affairs Ali Sabri told the Charge d'Affaires that he thought the heads of state conference would take place either in late July or early September, but not during August. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Visit of Sekou Toure to the UAR

Sekou Toure completed a nine-day visit to the UAR on May 17. In addition to the usual ceremonial and propaganda aspects of such a visit, it resulted in the signing of four UAR-Guinean agreements: cultural, trade and payments, technical cooperation, and military cooperation. The visit was extended two and a half days over the original schedule to overlap the arrival of President Sukarno of Indonesia, thereby permitting a joint discussion among the three neutralist leaders, presumably devoted at least in part to the forthcoming conference of non-aligned states. Another unexpected aspect of the visit was Toure's overnight trip to Saudi Arabia for a talk with King Saud. This trip apparently was stimulated by a good will message from King Saud and the talks reportedly concerned possible establishment of Guinea-Saudi diplomatic relations and problems of Guinean pilgrims to Mecca. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

While the Toure visit was given all the fanfare of a full-fledged state visit of a friendly Chief of State, including heavy play in the press and radio, popular interest in Cairo was relatively light. However, there is some indication that Toure and his party were impressed by their reception and by the evidences of progress, notably industrial development, in the UAR. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. Sukarno Arrives for Visit to UAR

President Sukarno arrived for a two-day visit to the UAR on May 16. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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4. East German Consulate in Damascus

Gumhuriya on May 12 carried a short item that the UAR had authorized East Germany to open a Consulate in Damascus. West German Embassy officers state that their Ambassador has protested this action to high level UAR authorities, citing an assurance given by Nasser in 1959 that, while a GDR Consulate General would be permitted in Cairo, an East German Consulate in Damascus would not be established. The UAR officials now take the position that the assurance given in 1959 had merely been that no GDR Consulate would be established in Damascus at that time, but that no commitment for the future had been given. The UAR maintains that changing the title of the GDR trade mission in Damascus to that of Consulate is a routine matter, and the UAR's policy of not recognizing the GDR is still fully maintained. (CONFIDENTIAL)

The German Embassy speculates that Soviet pressure might be behind this move by the UAR; possibly the Soviets pressed for full recognition of the GDR and the UAR resisted, but took the compromise step of permitting a Consulate in Damascus. This step might also be a counter-move stemming from UAR pique at the distribution in the U.S. by the West German Embassy there of a book favorable to Israel, and perhaps any pro-Israel sentiment generated in Germany by the Eichmann trial. The German Ambassador left for Bonn on May 16 for consultations. (EMBTTEL 1862 and G-575) (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. South Vietnamese Good Will Mission

A South Vietnamese good will mission headed by Ly Tu (transliterated from Arabic), Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, left Cairo on May 12 after a week's visit. Though it got little coverage in the press, and was in any case overshadowed by the Sekou Toure visit, the mission was received by President Nasser, as well as by Foreign Minister Fawzi and officials of the Ministry of Economy. According to an official of the Cambodian Embassy, who was in touch with the mission, it did not raise the question of diplomatic representation, but did explore the possibility of establishing a trade office here along the lines of that already maintained by N. Vietnam. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

On the day the South Vietnamese mission left, the press carried a report that the North Vietnamese office was to be raised to the level of a Consulate General. The Director of the Asian Department of the Foreign Ministry states flatly that there are no present plans to make this move, and says that in any case the UAR's firm stand in relation to the two divided Asian countries (Korea and Vietnam) is to maintain representation with both halves on the basis of strict equality. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

6. Rumors That Ben Gurion Will Meet With Kennedy

The press initially gave a big play to rumors that Ben Gurion would meet with President Kennedy on his way to visit Canada on May 25. The visit to Canada was merely a pretext, said "Ahram", for the meeting with Kennedy. In an exclusive on May 16, "Ahram's" New York correspondent reported that Ben Gurion's main purpose in seeking the meeting was to line up support for Israel's

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position on the question of settlement of the Arab refugees question. Other objectives were to smooth over U.S.-Israeli differences on the question of the Negev nuclear reactor, and to enhance Ben Gurion's prestige in the coming elections in Israel. (Embtel 1843) (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: UAR reaction, as evidenced by press treatment, has so far been one of alarmed wariness rather than anger. Although the initial story was announced in banner headlines and dramatic tone, subsequent stories have been given a decidedly quiet treatment. (Embtel 1860) (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Another Phase of UAR Second Army Field Exercises Completed

Except for a few miscellaneous small units, the desert area east of Cairo, which is used for field training exercises, was empty the past week. Military camps in the Cairo area were engaged in normal camp activities. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Field exercises which began late in 1960 on a platoon and company level climaxed in combined arms maneuvers which involved the major portions of the 4th Armed Division (o/a 10 April 1961), followed by the 3rd Infantry Division (o/a 26 April 1961). Both of these divisions are stationed in the Cairo area. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. UAR and Guinea Sign Military Cooperation Pact

Local press announced that the UAR and Guinea signed four accords, one of which concerns military cooperation. Though the agreements on trade and payments, cultural cooperation and technical aid were covered in some detail (see Political), the press included only a statement to the effect that a military cooperation agreement had been signed. (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Sekou Toure

President Toure, hailed as President "Ahmad" Toure by all Cairo media, received heavy press coverage. He was acclaimed a co-leader with Nasser of neutralist African nations, with "Al Gumhuriya" writing: "Guinea's victory over the forces of French colonialism has been a victory for all nationalist movements everywhere. Cooperation among the free sons of Africa and of all other continents is a shield protecting peoples' victories." President Toure reportedly told the National Assembly in Cairo that the creation of the United Arab Republic has been one of the most important phases of the African struggle against imperialism. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge in Cairo

The press reported Mr. Lodge's arrival in Cairo in his capacity as chairman of the International Institute of Education. It was also reported that he

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was the personal guest of Dr. Fawzi, the UAR Foreign Minister. During a brief press conference at the airport, Mr. Lodge, asked about the proposed reorganization of the United Nations, stated (according to the press) that he was against enlarging the Secretariat, but is for the idea of bringing more members into the Security Council.

Cairo reporters showed considerable interest in Mr. Lodge's presence, but the Ambassador refused to grant press interviews to anybody. He explained: "I am here as a private citizen, and I do not intend to talk about or interpret United States foreign policy." CBS correspondent William Leonard is accompanying Mr. Lodge and making a documentary film based on his trip to the UAR, Tunisia, and Kenya. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

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USIS - ZNagorski

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From Amembassy Cairo

POLITICAL

1. UAR-US and UAR-USSR Relations.

The generally improved atmosphere for the US here and in particular the moderate press treatment of the US has continued for about three weeks. Even the forthcoming Ben Gurion-Kennedy meeting and the Alabama race incidents have been handled with surprising restraint. Several sources confirm that instructions from the Presidency banning attacks on the US were issued about May 3 or 4. The factors responsible for this change in atmosphere are not entirely clear, but the following appear to be involved: (a) Ambassador Reinhardt's calling attention to the potential harm to US-UAR relations which might result from a continuation of the abusive attitude of the UAR press and radio; (b) President Kennedy's letters to Nasser and his conversation with Ambassador Kamel, which reports indicate have made a favorable impression on Nasser; (c) the fact that the deteriorating UAR foreign exchange position emphasizes the need for additional credits and PL 480 agricultural commodities; (d) the fact that current tensions with West Germany becloud relations with the other major source of Western aid; (e) failure of UAR cotton marketing policy in free world markets; (f) absence of conspicuous success of UAR African and Arab policies; and (g) indications of some UAR-USSR friction.

There have been a number of reports that Khrushchev lectured Anwar Sadat, leader of a recent UAR Parliamentary delegation to Moscow, on the UAR's repressive policy toward local communists, as well as the failure of UAR leaders to understand the nature of Communism and its inevitable victory. Also the press and radio have publicized the fact that Deputy Foreign Minister Hussein Zulficar Sabry called in the USSR Ambassador to object to a story broadcast by Radio Moscow that a certain Egyptian Communist had been killed through mishandling in a UAR jail. The departure of the UAR Ambassador-designate to Moscow, Murad Ghaleb, continues to be delayed without adequate explanation. There are also reports that Soviet deliveries of MIG 19s have stopped, of Soviet irritation over the Nasser-Tito sponsorship of the Conference of Non-Aligned States, and continuing indications of Soviet-UAR frictions over construction of the High Dam. (Embtels 1883 and 1888). (SECRET)

Comment: Neither the evidence of an improved atmosphere for the US nor the indications of friction with the USSR are conclusive. However, while these changes may be of a temporary character, and presumably do not reflect any fundamental reorientation of UAR policy, they do suggest that the situation in which the UAR now finds itself places the US in a more favorable tactical position vis-a-vis the UAR than has been the case for some time. (SECRET)

2. Summit Conference of Non-Aligned States.

According to the latest information obtained from excellent sources, of the 21 nations invited by the UAR and Yugoslavia to attend the summit conference of non-aligned states, all have accepted except Venezuela, which has declined,

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and Yemen and Mexico, which have not yet replied.

In a conversation with our Charge on May 20, Indian Ambassador Hussain indicated that Nehru had been reluctant in the first place to agree to participate in the conference and that he was doing so only on condition that (1) the conference should not be used as a device for attacking any parties (2) it should consider only broad mutual problems and not be used as a platform for propagating purely national issues, i.e., Israel, Mauretania, Pushtoonistan, etc. (3) the question of broadening participation in the heads of state conference must be considered at the preliminary conference (due to meet in Cairo on June 5). Hussain also said that the participation of the Gizenga government in the heads of state conference had been advocated by the UAR, but India had refused to concur. (Embtel 1893) (SECRET)

3. President Sukarno's Visit to Cairo.

President Sukarno of Indonesia visited Cairo May 16-18, where he held discussions with President Nasser, as well as joint discussions with Nasser and President Sekou Toure of Guinea, who had extended his visit to overlap that of Sukarno. The main subject of both discussions was apparently the proposed Conference of Non-Aligned States, of which all three neutralist leaders are active proponents. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: The joint communique issued at the end of the visit was completely innocuous and did not deal with any specific world issue or mention any agreements arrived at. However, since Sukarno's visit the Cairo press has begun referring to him as a co-sponsor of the Conference of Non-Aligned States. It is not clear whether any such decision was formally taken; however, Sukarno appears to be reaping some propaganda benefit, thereby obscuring somewhat his failure thus far to bring off a Bandung-type conference (which would presumably have included Communist China). (Embdes 955). (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

4. Nasser-Toure Communique.

The joint Nasser-Toure communique, issued on the latter's departure May 17, was for the most part a repetition of expected attitudes on a full run-down of international issues. The two Presidents expressed the expected sentiments on Algeria, French nuclear tests, Angola, South Africa, the cessation of all nuclear tests preliminary to total disarmament, support of the African Charter of the Casablanca powers, support for the Gizenga regime in the Congo, condemnation of Israel as an agent of imperialism, support for freedom movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and support for the conference of non-aligned states. In spite of the liberal sprinkling of references to imperialism and neo-colonialism, as well as other attacks on Western policies, the communique was for the most part couched in moderate tones. (Embdes 936, May 18). (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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5. East German Consulate in Damascus.

The press of May 18 carried an obviously officially inspired statement by the "Economic Editor of the Middle East News Agency", responding to West German press comments that West German economic aid to the UAR might be affected by the UAR's reported decision to authorize an East German Consulate in Damascus. The statement labelled reports of West German aid to the UAR as "utterly unfounded", alleging that "what the West German papers referred to as aid to the UAR is only a matter of credit facilities by West Germany in favor of certain projects in the UAR". If economic transactions between the UAR and the West German government were halted, the Editor contended, the loser would be West Germany, "because the balance of trade between the two parties has always been in favor of West Germany". There have been no further press reports directly on this subject, but on May 22 all papers carried a brief item that the visit of Vice President Baghdadi to West Germany had been postponed "until a time to be fixed later". There was no reference to the question of an East German Consulate in Damascus or the West German reaction thereto, although the connection was obvious. Further developments probably await the return of the German Ambassador from consultations in Bonn. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

6. UAR Sends "Representative" to Stanleyville.

Press reports that Mandouh Gubba had departed for Stanleyville to be the UAR's "Ambassador" to the Gizenga regime (Embtel 1844) have been qualified to some extent by information provided by Foreign Ministry officials. According to one, he has not yet presented his credentials, and, in fact, it has not been decided whether he would be Ambassador, Minister, or Charge d'Affaires. The official referred to Gubba as "our representative" in Stanleyville. Another Foreign Ministry official played down the importance of Gubba's assignment, saying he believed that in the light of developments in the Congo the UAR no longer viewed the Stanleyville assignment as a particularly significant one. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: The comments of both of these officials suggest that in spite of public statements of support for the Gizenga regime, the UAR still does not want to commit itself to such an extent that it would lose room to maneuver as the Congo situation evolves. (Embdes 934). (CONFIDENTIAL)

7. Kamal al Din Hussein Warns Against "Atheistic Materialism".

In a series of speeches being given at National Union conferences in each of the Governorates, National Union Supervisor General Kamal al Din Hussein has repeatedly laid emphasis on the conception of the "democratic, socialist and cooperative society" as differing basically from other doctrines which "aim at materialism and deviate from the natural spiritual road created by God." He has stressed that the UAR does not draw its principles from East or West, but "from our own heritage". Hussein also consistently emphasized traditional values -- his speeches have featured unusually frequent references

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to God, and on several occasions he has spoken of the fellah's individual ownership of land as an institution to be strengthened, not broken down. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Hussein's public pronouncements are usually confined to hackneyed repetitions of the most standard anti-imperialist themes. It is therefore interesting that he has embarked on this indirect attack on the communist economic and social system at a time when there are other signs that UAR-USSR relations may be undergoing some strain. (See above) (CONFIDENTIAL)

8. Turkish "Espionage Ring" in Syria.

Damascus and Cairo papers on May 18 carried detailed accounts of the alleged cracking by UAR intelligence of a Turkish espionage network in Damascus. According to the press account, a retired Syrian army officer was approached by Turkish agents to obtain photographs of Soviet-built UAR aircraft and other military information. On advice from UAR intelligence the Syrian pretended to cooperate with the Turks, while actually providing information on them. UAR authorities finally closed in on the ring this month, apprehending a Turkish army colonel who was posing as a diplomatic courier, his wife, and an officer of the Turkish Consulate General in Damascus. According to the press all three confessed to complicity in espionage activity and were immediately deported. (Damascus tel to Dept 694). (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Press treatment both in Damascus and Cairo have used the case chiefly to laud UAR intelligence for its vigilance in uncovering "imperialism's" plots against the UAR. The press has not attacked the Turkish Government or treated the case as a cause for impairing UAR-Turkish relations. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Cambodian Military Mission on Tour.

According to press reports, the Cambodian Military Mission, headed by the Minister of Defense, attended "some" military exercises in the desert on May 21. Later the same day, they visited the Air Academy. Plans for May 22 called for the usual tour of military factories. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Location of exercises attended was not given except that they were in the desert. It is felt that the area in the vicinity of Cairo was used and that the "exercises" were in the form of demonstrations. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. UAR First Army Completes Spring Maneuvers.

The local press announced that the UAR First Army completed large spring maneuvers in Syria on May 19. The maneuvers began the first part of May and included all forces of the Army. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. U.S. Spaceman's Story in "Gumhuriya".

"Gumhuriya" published the full text of Alan B. Shepard's by-lined article supplied to USIS Cairo by Wireless File. In addition to the description of the flight, preparations and an outline of Shepard's personal impressions, the story contained a paragraph quoting Shepard's statements about a free society in which everything is done in full view of the world press.

"Gumhuriya" splashed the story in a major headline on the front page and used more than one page inside to print it in full. Headlines indicated that "Gumhuriya" took the initiative by approaching Shepard by cable. Shepard responded, the newspaper said, by cabling directly to "Gumhuriya" the full account of his journey into space. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Shepard's story was offered on an exclusive basis to Major Salah Salem for his newspaper by USIS Cairo. He took immediate action; the article was received on May 23 in Cairo, was published in "Gumhuriya" on the following day. USIS Cairo provided Major Salah Salem with the Arabic text of the story. There were no editorial changes made, except for sensational headlines. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. French-Algerian Talks.

Front page prominence has been given throughout the week to the opening of the new French-Algerian talks. As usual, headlines and editorials were slanted against the French. France's unilateral announcement of a cease-fire was treated by the press as a sneaky attempt to bring about the demoralization of PAG's guerrilla forces while negotiations dragged on at Evian. "Akhbar" added: "If France really wants to prove its bona fides it should release the Algerian leaders detained in prisons." (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Neutralist Summit Conference.

Newspapers continue to hail the proposed summit conference of neutralist leaders as a step forward and an opportunity for assumption of a more important role in world affairs. "These leaders", wrote "Akhbar El Yom", are no longer satisfied with their passive roles as the world's conscience; they want a much more active position." (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Visit of U.S. Newspaper Study Mission.

A group of 21 American newsmen (publishers and editors) stopped for one day in Cairo. Led by Edgar S. Bayol, the group included editors and publishers from Western and Mid-Western cities. Three interviews have been arranged for the group: with the Director General of the Department of Information, Editor-in-Chief and Chairman of Dar El Tahrir Publishing House (Major Salah Salem) and Dr. Hassouna, Secretary General of the Arab League. The group left the following day for Jordan. It received a fairly good and objective press coverage. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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5. 14 Nation Geneva Conference on Laos.

The Conference has been almost totally ignored by the press; news despatches printed on back pages indicated that the Conference was held, but no editorial mention was made to it throughout the week. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Race Riots in Alabama.

All papers, Arabic and foreign language, front-paged news stories from Montgomery, Alabama. "White Mob Besieges Negroes in Alabama Church" stated five-column headline in the English-language "Egyptian Gazette". Next to the story a picture of a marching detachment of National Guards was published. The only editorial to appear so far, in the French-language "Le Progres Egyptien", treated the US with a fairness that it has not received from the UAR press in years: "Despite the conduct of certain local authorities, such as Alabama Governor John Patterson, the attitude of the Federal Government and of the immense majority of the American population is in accord with the triumph of true human values." (UNCLASSIFIED)

7. USIS Cairo Under Attack.

Leftist weekly "Rose El Youssef" took exception to a special edition of USIS Cairo press release on Cuba. The issue contained several articles on the Cuban developments and reign of terror initiated by Castro. The writer of the story, Mamduh Reda, assured USIS that nobody would believe that things are as bad in Cuba as stated in the release and called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to investigate the propriety of similar bulletins issued by foreign embassies. (UNCLASSIFIED)

8. Soviet Ambassador Given A Lecture.

All three Cairo dailies reported that the Deputy Foreign Minister Zulficar Sabri summoned the Soviet Ambassador and requested that Moscow Radio should first check its information before putting it on the air. A story had been beamed to the area in Arabic service of Moscow Radio reporting the death of a prominent Egyptian communist, Riad Alturk, in prison. The Deputy Minister assured the Soviet Ambassador that Mr. Alturk enjoys perfect health in his detention. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

Curtis C. Strong

Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary of Embassy

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Army - Lt. Colonel Joy
Psychological - ZNagorski

MS.

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POLITICAL

1. UAR Breaks Relations with South Africa

UAR severed diplomatic relations with the Union of South Africa on May 30. The UAR in effect refused to recognize the new Republic in South Africa, alleging that the latter government had "lost its legality," since the election on which it was based was limited to the white minority in South Africa. The official statement explaining the UAR's action said that "the segregation policy adopted by the Government of the Union of South Africa has reached unprecedented lengths" because it ignored the human rights of the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of the country and slighted world opinion. (Embdes 974, May 31, 1961) (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Non-Aligned States Conference

Some uncertainty prevails on the part of Brazil and Mexico in their attitude toward the conference of non-aligned states. According to our Embassy in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil has decided to send an "observer" to the preparatory conference without commitment that it will attend the heads of state conference. The Mexican Embassy in Cairo states that as far as it knows Mexico has not yet given a definite reply to the heads of state invitation. According to a Latin American source in Cairo, one of the factors causing the Latin American states to hesitate to accept unequivocally at this time is the possibility that the Provisional Algerian Government may be officially represented at the conference. (Embtel 1923, May 29, 1961) (CONFIDENTIAL)

Speculation continues about the possibility that additional states will be invited to broaden the conference, although little firm information has appeared beyond the fact that this will be one of the subjects taken up at the preparatory conference (meeting in Cairo June 5-9). Middle East News on May 26 said that the preparatory conference would "review the political attitudes" of the following 14 countries with a view to extending invitations to them: Libya, Lebanon, Tunisia, Senegal, Nigeria, Liberia, Malaya, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Austria, Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina. (Embtel 1922, May 29, 1961) (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. "Palestine Experts Conference" in Cairo

On May 29, a conference of "experts" on the Palestine issue opened in Cairo with Arab League Secretary General Abdel Khaliq Hassouna in the chair. Purpose of the conference appears to be, broadly speaking, to formulate an Arab policy to regain Palestine; the lengthy agenda, as reported by the press, includes such time-tested items as the creation of a Palestine Army, strengthening of the Arab boycott of Israel, countering Israeli aggressions, and so forth.

Reportedly, the opening meeting was devoted to a discussion of President Kennedy's letters to heads of Arab states, insofar as the communications related to Palestine. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Comment: Despite the stereotyped nature of the agenda, conviction seems to be growing that this conference may well carry more weight than similar meetings in the past. One indication of this is the UAR's last minute decision to have Mahmoud Riad, the President's Political Advisor, attend the session, rather than Brig. Amin Hilmi, head of the Palestine Affairs Section of the Foreign Ministry, who had at first been named. Other delegates: Ahmed al Shoukeiry, Saudi Arabian Minister of State; Rafiq el Hussein, Jordanian Minister of Economy; Qassem Hassan, Iraqi Ambassador to Czechoslovakia; Dr. Fouad Amoun, Secretary General of the Lebanese Foreign Office. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Cambodian Military Mission Ends Visit

Vice President Field Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer received Major General Lon Nul, Cambodian Defense Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Cambodian Armed Forces, on the occasion of the close of the visit of the Cambodian Military Mission to the UAR. The visit, which lasted for two weeks, included tours of military factories and installations in both regions of the UAR. In reference to the visit, General Nul expressed his belief that "the mission had gained valuable knowledge especially in the military field from which the young Cambodian Army will benefit". (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Vienna Meeting

"Al Akhbar" was the only Arabic-language newspaper to include an editorial dealing with the Vienna meeting of the two leaders. Entitled "Liquidation of the American Empire", the daily wrote: "At the time the edifice of the American empire is collapsing...the Vienna summit meeting is scheduled to take place. What prompted Kennedy to decide to have a meeting with Khrushchev? Cuba, Communist victory in Laos, failure of atomic ban talks forced Kennedy to accept the idea of the meeting..." Other papers refrained from editorializing. A French-language newspaper linked the Vienna encounter with the meeting of neutralist states to be held in Cairo and recalled President Nasser's remarks made at the UN last November urging better understanding between East and West. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Ben Gurion in the United States

Cairo dailies devoted a considerable amount of space to Ben Gurion's visit to the U.S., depicting it as a "begging mission" of a man who knows that he is a loser. "Al Akhbar" said, "It is not surprising that Ben Gurion wants a frontier guarantee...UAR, a symbol of Arab solidarity, will sooner or later seal his fate." "Egyptian Gazette" published on May 31 its main editorial dealing with the visit, dismissing Ben Gurion's speech in Philadelphia as "downright

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deceit" and expressing hope that only uninformed Americans would believe what the Prime Minister of Israel asserted. The editorial did not include any direct attacks on the United States or mention of the Ben Gurion-Kennedy meeting. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Non-Aligned Nations Summit Conference

Hassanein Haikal in "Al Ahram" commented extensively on the forthcoming conference of non-aligned countries. He wrote: "Non-alignment should become a substitute for political opportunism...Easing of international tension would permit the neutral countries to concentrate upon domestic problems." According to "Al Gumhuriya", the principal purpose of the conference will be to find ways and means to ease world's tension. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. UAR-US Wheat Agreement

A surprising amount of publicity (without USIS claiming any credit for it) was given to the supplementary PL-480 agreement signed on May 27 providing for \$15 million worth of U.S. wheat to be imported into the UAR. The agreement, part of the regular flow of U.S. surplus agricultural products, called for repayment in local currency over a 30 year period at 4 per cent annual interest.

News item announcing the signing was front-paged by "Al Ahram" and most of the French-language dailies. "Al Gumhuriya" carried a picture of the signing ceremony, and the story appeared on an inside page of "Al Akhbar". (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. Arabs' Number One Enemy: Philip Morris

"Al Ahram" warned all Arab delegations at the United Nations against the Number One Enemy of the Arabs -- the newly appointed member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, Philip Morris. The man, according to "Al Ahram", is a well known supporter of Zionism and a former official of the United Jewish Appeal. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

Francis O. Allen
Francis O. Allen

Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy CAIRO

1010

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

June 8, 1961

DATE

REF :

JUN. 8 1961

10-27-3 FE-4 ARA-4

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	REC'D	OTHER
6-13	1NR-10	REP-1 RM/R-2 NEA-4 AF-5 ICA-11 B/FAC-1 EHR-5 USIA-11 ARMY-35 NAVY-20 AIR-15 CIA-16 OSD-2 NSC-1 NSA-4

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 23

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3. UAR Press: One Year After Nationalization.
4. African News Agency Planned.

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REPORTER

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POLITICAL

1. UAR-USSR Relations.

On June 5 all Cairo newspapers published stories sharply attacking the "propaganda organs" of the USSR for having been engaged in an organized propaganda campaign against the UAR. The Cairo stories were clearly officially inspired; and the biggest play was given on June 5 and the following days to articles on this theme put out by the official (or semi-official) Middle East News Agency (MEN). MEN's story of June 5 was well summarized in "Ahram's" headlines of that date: "COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA APPARATUS ATTACKS US (red banner); Continuous Attacks on us by Soviet Propaganda Machinery and 'Agent Communist' Parties in area; UAR exercised patience in hopes those engineering attacks would come to their senses, but in vain; Deputy Foreign Minister asked Soviet Ambassador to have Radio Moscow verify its reports, but radio continues to broadcast lies; Soviet propaganda makes same error it committed once before and attempts exert pressure on us; UAR will not under any circumstances give Communist agents the right to complete freedom of political action." Another MEN story widely played on June 7 stated that Soviet "propaganda machinery" (Pravda, Tass, Radio Moscow, etc.) had "lately" launched 157 attacks on UAR; and "agent" or dependent (on Moscow) Commie parties, such as Lebanese, had joined in. Lebanese Commie organ had "in last few months" published 900 articles and news items attacking UAR. This MEN article, analyzing Soviet objectives in the anti-UAR campaign, said there appeared to be two: 1) the attacks were directed against the union of Egypt and Syria, - and against "Arab National Unity" generally, - because the Egypt-Syria union had ended Commie activity in Syria, and because Arab national unity prevents "vassal political groups" (i.e. Commies) from acting the way they did in Iraq. 2) The attacks were directed against the UAR's "independent" policy and positive neutralism, with the Soviet propaganda campaign claiming there is no neutralism in the world, but only two camps, a Communist and a Capitalist. These attacks on the UAR's independent and neutral policy are made to prevent newly emerging states from adhering to it, from following UAR policy "which stems from its nationalist conscience". (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: It is clear that the UAR is reacting to the recent Soviet private and public criticism of the UAR for its attitude toward local communism. The current wave of Soviet criticism seems to have begun with Khrushchev's remarks to Anwar Sadat early in May (Weeks 21, May 25) and was thereafter continued by stories carried by Radio Moscow and Pravda, etc. (Embtel 1951, June 4). The UAR counter-attack has been careful to criticize only Soviet "propaganda machinery", avoiding reference to Soviet Government, and stressing UAR regard for Soviet "people". It is as yet too early to assess the significance of this development; but for the moment at least the West is reaping the advantage that UAR propaganda is playing up its determination not to permit local Communist parties to operate, and stressing the fact that local Communist parties are "agents" of Soviet Russia. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Preparatory Conference for "Non-Aligned" Summit Meeting.

The Preparatory meeting for the "non-aligned" summit conference opened in Cairo June 5, attended by representatives of 21 countries (20 full fledged delegations plus an "observer" representing Brazil.). At the last minute Mexico decided not to send

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even an observer.

The countries attending are the following: Yugoslavia, UAR, India, Indonesia, Guinea, Morocco, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Somalia, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, Mali, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Nepal, Ceylon, Burma, Cuba, Brazil.

Apart from routine opening addresses, only action taken so far by the conference was to formally invite the Provisional Algerian Government to participate in the conference. Ghana proposed that both Algeria and Congo - Stanleyville - be invited to attend; and reportedly India led those opposed to this proposal. Apparently a compromise was reached, with Algeria, but not Stanleyville, being invited. An Algerian delegation formally joined the conference at its evening session on June 7. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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3. Makarios Visits UAR.

The President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios, arrived in Cairo June 3 for a week's state visit to both regions of the UAR: while the popular response was tepid, the official welcome was noticeably warm. A special UAR airplane, escorted by a jet squadron, brought Makarios from Cyprus to Cairo, where he was welcomed by President Nasser before beginning the usual round of visits to museums, steel mills, the War College and the National Assembly. Published statements on both sides have touched mainly on the long history of cordial relations between the Cypriot people and the people of the UAR, the similarity of their struggle "for freedom from imperialism", the need for increased cooperation in political, economic, and cultural fields, and expanded trade relations. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: It is generally conceded that one of the UAR's principal interests in Makarios is to attempt to shackle Israeli efforts to establish themselves firmly in Cyprus. Makarios is probably more interested in the fate of the UAR's Cypriot community, numbered by him at 15,000, which he presumably is anxious to protect. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

4. Palestine Experts Conference.

After a week of meetings in camera, little has emerged from the Palestine Experts Conference, made up of five individuals chosen for their knowledge of Palestine, except rumors of dissension and infighting, and a plan to revive and expand the 'All Palestine Government', approved over the opposition of Jordanian Minister of Economy Hussein.

As far as the Embassy has been able to gather, the Experts Conference recommended that the "All Palestine Government" (a moribund organization formed in 1949 and now consisting of 85 year old Ahmed Hilmi and two or three employees) should be strengthened and enlarged to exercise some form of control over Palestinian territory, except what is now Israel. As a first step, it is proposed that the Palestine Government be admitted to the Arab League as a full member of the Council, instead of the "observer" status it has heretofore enjoyed.

The proposal envisages ultimate recognition of the Government by all countries, admission to the UN, the formation of a Palestine Army and other steps which have a familiar ring.

The "Experts" proposal is of course only a recommendation to higher Arab League authorities; what will come of it is not now clear. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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5. Arab League Meeting on Charter Revision.

The Secretariat of the Arab League has long felt the League's effectiveness to be handicapped by its Charter, which provides that member states are bound only by League decisions and resolutions which have been approved unanimously. Various proposals in the past to substitute a majority vote for unanimity have failed of acceptance, but another effort is currently being made in a Committee meeting called by Secretary General Hassouna and presided over by the UAR's delegate, Mohammed Hassan al-Zayaat.

It is known that both Tunisia and Iraq have submitted proposals to change the charter, Iraq's contribution being not just a few amendments, but a complete new charter, based on UN principles, according to the Iraqi Charge in Cairo, who characterizes the proposed charter as an outstanding effort and one reflecting a tremendous amount of thought and work. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: Regardless of how competent a job has been done by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry in its preparation of the draft of a new charter, any such proposal in the direction of strengthening the League is bound to run into trouble from smaller states fearing an increase in the domination of the League by the UAR. On balance the Embassy sees no prospect of immediate acceptance of sweeping changes. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Graduations at Military Institutions.

Two graduation ceremonies took place in the Cairo area on June 5. A new "batch" of staff officers were graduated from the Staff Officers College. The ceremony was attended by Field Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer, C-in-C of the Armed Forces and Vice President of the Republic. On the same day, Lt. General Ali Ali Amer witnessed the graduation ceremonies at the Military Academy. He was accompanied by Lt. General Jamial Faisel, Commander of the UAR First Army. Though sizes of respective classes were not given, the class from the Military Academy was reported as the largest ever graduated. (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. President Kennedy's Journey.

John F. Kennedy's trip produced relatively light coverage. There were few editorials, and those which were published - with one or two exceptions - retained a surprising amount of objectivity and self-restraint. During the Kennedy-DeGaulle meeting Cairo dailies did not belabor the Algerian problem, which by itself was rather a remarkable omission.

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Prior to the Vienna meeting Ahmed Baha El Din filed a despatch from the Austrian capital preparing his readers for a possible defeat of the United States: "Kennedy lacks experience in comparison with Khrushchev ... Khrushchev may find himself face to face with a wavering and faltering Hamlet. Added to this is the fact that Kennedy faces three losing stages - Laos, Cuba and Gagarin The basic idea turning in Khrushchev's mind is that the balance of power has changed and (that) it is high time for America to admit the change and accept its logical consequences" Usually unfriendly and leftist afternoon tabloid "Al Massa" published an editorial in anticipation of the meeting in mild and rather friendly terms. The only jibe at Kennedy was included in the title: "The First Meeting Between A Shepherd and a Millionaire." The only notable exception from the overall tone of tolerant expectation has been a piece written by one of the editors of "Akhbar". Entitled "Liquidation of the American Empire", the writer recalled "The Cuban scandal, Communist victory in Laos" and asked why should Kennedy have requested a meeting under such dark auspices? The only hope for the American President, concluded the writer, would be to liberate himself from the remnants of Foster Dulles' policy and start all over.

In another article "Akhbar" drew the two world leaders' attention to the non-aligned nations conference in Cairo: "(They) cannot fail to take notice of the conference ... which is an undeniable proof that world affairs are no more a bargain between East and West The policy of non-alignment will soon be adopted by most countries. Russia and America will find themselves face to face and the policy of non-alignment will emerge triumphant." (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Anti-Communist Campaign.

Beginning June 5, the editions of all Cairo papers as well as other media (radio and TV) devoted the bulk of their space to denounce Soviet propaganda machine, Communist attempts to infiltrate into the UAR and to intimidate the Arabs. Middle East News Agency, acting as semi-official mouthpiece of the Government, picked up the battle. Editorials, commentaries and properly prepared news items fell into line. Trade unions, journalists' syndicates, teachers and students passed appropriate resolutions. First, advertisements publicizing anti-Communist books appeared in the papers. USIS Cairo has been asked from many quarters to provide anti-Communist material particularly related to methods of Communist subversion. Privately, one or two friendly journalists congratulated their American friends, expressing their firm belief that this time the anti-Soviet phase is here to stay for a long time. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: It seems doubtful. (See Political) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. UAR Press: One Year After Nationalization.

In a bold move, weekly "Bena Al Watan", edited by one of the trusted associates of President Nasser, conducted a series of interviews with

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newspaper editors and former publishers. Topic: how does the press look a year after nationalization? The answers were expectedly generalized and insignificant, but a certain amount of criticism crept in. Said Zaki Abdel Kader, a veteran columnist of "Akhbar": "Most of the articles ... are not enough concerned with facts." Added Koddus of "Rose El Youssef" "(Legal definitions) ... of press organizations and responsibilities of Board members (are missing)." And a professor at Cairo University stated hopefully: "The eternal problem of the press is freedom." (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. African News Agency Planned.

The First Conference of African Press Confederation held in Cairo passed a number of resolutions, including one recommending the establishment of an African News Agency in Cairo. The purpose of that "center of communication" would be to furnish African press with material related to the Continent. In addition, the Conference recommended an exchange of newsmen between the African States, exchange of films and newsreels and an effort to "purge" colonial press agencies still operating throughout Africa. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The Conference, organized locally by various "Liberation" movements, does not appear to have solid foundations. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:

Francis O. Allen

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Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

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Army - Lt. Colonel Joy
USIS - ZNagorski

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TO :	THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.		June 15, 1961		
REF :			AF-5		JUN. 15 1961
ACTION		DEPT.			
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REC'D		6-19		USIA-11 OSD-2 ARMY-35 NAVY-20 AIR-15	
SUBJECT:		JOINT WEEKA NO. 24		CIA-16	

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2. KLM Plane Crashes in Cairo.

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From Amembassy Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Preparatory Conference For "Non-Aligned" Summit Meeting.

The "Preparatory Conference" for the "non-aligned" Summit meeting ended at 4 a.m. on June 13, after a lengthy session largely devoted to arguments over what additional countries should be invited to attend the Summit. The conference issued an official communique on June 13 announcing that the Summit meeting would be held "in Yugoslavia" beginning September 1, 1961; and "recommending" an agenda for the Summit. The proposed agenda included the following: 1) Exchange of views on the international situation. 2) Establishment and consolidation of international peace and security: a) Respect for the rights of peoples' and nations' self-determination, struggle against imperialism, and liquidation of colonialism and neo-colonialism; b) Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states; non-interference and non-intervention in internal affairs of states; c) Racial discrimination and apartheid; d) General and complete disarmament; banning of nuclear tests; problems of foreign military bases; e) Peaceful co-existence among states with different political and social systems; f) Role and structure of UN and implementation of its resolutions. 3) Problems of unequal economic development and promotion of international economic and technical cooperation.

The Cairo press on June 12 published the criteria (agreed upon by the Preparatory Conference) which a country must meet to qualify to receive an invitation to participate in the Summit. These were that a country must have an independent policy, based on peaceful co-existence and non-alignment, or at least take an attitude friendly to this policy. It should also support national liberation movements; not be a member of any collective military alliance that would involve it in big-power conflicts; not have a bilateral alliance with any big power; and not have on its territory foreign military bases established with its consent. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: There has been obvious difficulty in deciding what countries should be invited to the Summit meeting. Reportedly, India and others wanted a flexible interpretation of the criteria that would permit a wide variety of "neutrals" to be invited, while Ghana, other Black African countries and others desired rigid qualifications. In fact, the Preparatory Conference sessions themselves were held up by a dispute over Ghana's proposal to invite the Provisional Algerian Government and the Stanleyville regime in the Congo to attend; eventually the Algerians were seated and the question of accrediting the Stanleyville delegates was "postponed". Reportedly, Ghana, Guinea and Mali showed some bitterness at the failure of the UAR to insist on seating the Stanleyville regime in the face of Indian and other Asian opposition. The unresolved problem of determining what countries will be invited to the Summit meeting has been handed on to a committee consisting of the diplomatic envoys in Cairo of the countries represented at the Preparatory Conference. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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2. Makarios' Visit Ends.

After a week of red-carpet treatment in the UAR, including, however, only two official meetings with Nasser, Archbishop Makarios returned on June 10 to Cyprus, seemingly well pleased with his reception. From public pronouncements during his stay, it appears that the main emphasis of the talks was on cultural and commercial relations, but it is noteworthy that Makarios affirmed Cyprus' policy to be one of "non-alignment"; that British bases there would never be used for attack; that consideration would be given to Cyprus' attendance at non-aligned Summit conference after his return to Cyprus.

The traditional joint communique stressed identity of views of the UAR and Cyprus on the usual subjects (UN, self-determination, ending colonialism, etc.) and added that the Palestine problem should be solved on the basis of restoration of the "legitimate rights of the Arab Palestinians in full".

Although the question of Israel-Cyprus relations was not mentioned in the communique, it seems likely that during the talks some efforts were made by the UAR to hamper Israeli activity on the island, perhaps for a quid pro quo of increased commercial relations between the UAR and Cyprus, although the Embassy has no hard information on this point. We do know, however, that the Turkish Embassy was not altogether happy with the visit, since there was no Turkish representative in Makarios' party and, during a dinner speech, the Archbishop went out of his way to stress that both the UAR and Cyprus had been under British and Turkish domination. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. Meeting of Arab Defense Council.

With the exception of Tunisia, all member states of the Arab League sent representatives to the Arab Defense Council meeting, which opened in Cairo June 10. Among subjects to be discussed by the assembled Foreign Ministers and Ministers of Defense, or their representatives, are the recommendations on Palestine which emanated from the Joint Chiefs of Staff meeting in April; the Israeli plan for diversion of the Jordan River and a "unified Arab military plan" to counter it; implementation of the Arab Collective Security Pact, and the question of Arab League members, who are not members of the Pact, joining it. (At present only the UAR, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Yemen belong to the Collective Security Pact.)

A 3-man committee was reportedly formed (Hashim Jawad, Iraq; Philip Takla, Lebanon; Lt. Gen. Mohammed Ibrahim, UAR) to submit further recommendations on the Israeli diversion of the Jordan, which the Council apparently regards as the most momentous question under consideration. It was noted by the press June 13 and confirmed by outside sources that Algeria had been invited to attend as an observer. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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From Ambassy CATRO

4. Arab League Considers Charter Amendment.

After ten days of discussion, Arab League representatives, called by the Secretariat to a meeting which began on June 1 to consider sweeping changes in the League Charter, seemed to have reached an impasse, with most states apparently fighting off the provisions of an Iraqi proposal that would allow a two-thirds majority, instead of the present unanimous vote, to bind all states to implementation. A sub-committee has now been formed (UAR, Iraq, Tunisia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia) to report to the full committee by June 15 on the discussions that have taken place and comments and observations that have been made. The full committee will in turn report to the meeting of foreign ministers at Casablanca in September, with their recommendations. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: Although the text of the proposed new Iraqi charter has not been disclosed, the Embassy has learned that the most controversial clause, as might have been expected, is the provision of the two-thirds majority vote, although other clauses no doubt also provoked discussion. There appears to be no hope of agreement on the proposed charter, since in the opinion of Arab observers within the League, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Libya, probably Lebanon, certainly Sudan and Yemen will hold out against what they regard as infringement of their sovereignty. Best guess is that little change will come about in the near future. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. Visit of Mali President Keita.

President Modibo Keita of Mali arrived in Cairo on June 12 to begin a seven day official visit to the UAR. He is scheduled to make the usual set of industrial and sightseeing visits, have talks with President Nasser, and, in what is becoming another standard feature of visits to the UAR, he will address the National Assembly on June 15. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Arab Defense Council Meets.

The Arab Defense Council met on schedule on June 10. Among the items on the agenda are the establishment of a Joint Arab Unified Command and possible broadening of the Arab Defense Pact (currently includes Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the UAR) to include such states as Sudan, Libya, and Morocco as signatories. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Local press announced on June 13 that the establishment of a Joint Arab Military Command had been agreed on and that a Commanding General was to be named. It was also announced that the Arab Chiefs of Staff were to be called to Cairo in order to "sit in" along with the present Defense Council meetings. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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AIR

1. Fourth Comet for UAA.

The fourth jet Comet 4-C arrived at Cairo International Airport on Monday, June 12, intended for the United Arab Airlines fleet.

The four-engined aircraft has a speed of 850 kilometers an hour and an average altitude of 32,000 feet. It was manufactured in Great Britain under an agreement covering the purchase of five jet aircraft for the United Arab Airlines. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. KLM Plane Crashes in Cairo.

At approximately 3 a.m. on Tuesday, June 13, a KLM Electra carrying 36 persons aboard, while coming in to land, crashed and burned 3 kilometers from Cairo International Airport. Nineteen people were killed; 16 hurt. Only one passenger escaped uninjured. At the present time there is no way to determine the cause of the crash. (UNCLASSIFIED)

NAVY - Negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Soviet Anti-UAR Campaign.

Since June 5, all major Cairo newspapers have continued to frontpage news of the UAR-USSR propaganda battle. Typical of the tone of the UAR press is reflected by "Akhhbar" of June 8 which said: "The situation, insofar as we are concerned, is very clear and very simple, namely that our policy, our systems and our ideals are our own concern, because they stem from our own conscience and are not dictated to us by others."

Cairo Radio joined the newspapers in attacking the USSR campaign against the UAR. The radio commentary followed closely the line of attacks established by the newspapers. "Rose El Youssef", weekly magazine, printed the blistering anti-USSR attack written by Youssef el Sibai, Secretary General of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization: "The peoples who gave their friendship sincerely to the Soviet Union are loathe to perceive behind the smile of friendship a set of snarling fangs, or to discover fetters of subservience hidden between the fingers of the hand outstretched with aid. They hate to discover that the countenance of chivalry and support was but a mask concealing a new face of imperialism." --- "The USSR must be clear with itself and honest to its obligations. It should realize clearly enough that to believe that the hand of friendship it stretches out to the peoples is the hand that will draw them into the pens of communism, is an illusion, and I repeat illusion."

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From: Ambassy Cairo

"Gumhuriya" of June 12 carried the following: "It seems that the eastern camp does not wish the western camp to monopolize deception, for it has formed an organization called the 'World Peace Council' which poses as an organization calling for peace and peaceful co-existence among all nations and denouncing war and domination. Like the 'Free World' it is an unmasked trick." (Comment: It is clear from this and other examples, that the current attacks on the USSR do not mean that the UAR has forgotten how to attack the West.)

After beginning on June 5, UAR attacks on the USSR "propaganda machinery" and on Soviet support of local Communist parties were kept up at full blast for about 5 days; since then they have tapered off considerably. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Case of Professor Malony of University of Kansas.

As if to take the edge off the UAR anti-USSR campaign, "Akhbar" and "Ahram" of June 10, carried long articles attacking Professor Malony of the University of Kansas for his article that appeared in the campus newspaper "Daily Kansas", discrediting the UAR university system and more particularly the scientific education offered the UAR students. The violent reaction of the Cairo newspapers was instigated by US-based correspondent Miss Safinaz Kazen, in a long article sent to "Akhbar". Cairo newspapers referred to Professor Malony as a "liar" and refuted his arguments by citing statements made by the "U.S. Cultural Counselor", the Fulbright Commission, the Director of the Ford Foundation, a report by "Professor Albert Noyas, Scientific Counselor of the President of the USA", a letter from Professor Howard Stewart, Chairman of the American Cancer Association, a Paris UNESCO Conference report, a letter written by Dr. Dobstan Shelback, Professor of Agriculture, London University, and last but not least, the Soviet Science Academy's report on UAR education signed by the head of the delegation, Dr. Dobnin. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Non-Aligned Preparatory Conference.

Commenting on the "non-aligned" conference, "Gumhuriya" of June 9 said: "The convocation of this conference is a new assertion of the fact that non-aligned countries are the conscience of this world. For it is obvious that they are only actuated by their unbiased desire to consolidate the security of mankind." "Ahram" of June 10 wrote that the important thing is to watch the reaction to this conference, and "the potentialities of the future call for non-alignment." This is imperative, since the two big powers, each of which occupies a position of leadership among a specific group of states, do not believe in non-alignment. "In fact, both groups have expressed disapproval of this non-alignment trend." (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Minister of Culture Okasha's Talks To Be Broadcast Over VOA.

"Ahram" of June 13 announced Dr. Sarwat Okasha, Minister of Culture, will record in English, for VOA radio, two addresses. The first is to deal

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with the cultural renaissance in the UAR to be broadcast on the occasion of the Revolution Day. The second on the Nubian monuments and the world's efforts to salvage them. Both talks reportedly will be broadcast over VOA's world-wide English broadcasts to Europe, South America and the Middle East.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

Political	-	FOAllen, DScott, RJBarrett
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REF :			JUN. 29 1961		MEP-4
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Action Assigned to Abbott
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From Embassy CAIRO

POLITICAL

1. Iraq-Kuwait Dispute.

Caught off balance by Iraq's unexpected announcement of its claim to Kuwait, the UAR officially reacted only after a day's delay, and then with a cautious, official statement that stressed its support for the concept of Arab unity but not by annexation. Neither side in the Iraq-Kuwait hassle was chided, but UAR backing for Kuwait was evident; at the same time, little was said that could cause serious worsening of her relations with Iraq, which reportedly have been improving of late. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: UAR could hardly do other than oppose Iraqi annexation of Kuwait in view of UAR's public recognition of Kuwait's independence and obvious UAR interest in opposing an increase in Iraqi power. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Non-Aligned Ambassadors' Conference.

The Ambassadors of the countries which participated in the Preparatory Conference of non-aligned states have been meeting in Cairo during the week to consider which additional states should be invited to the summit conference to be held in Belgrade on September 1. Several representatives present have presented lists of the states which their governments want invited. (UNCLASSIFIED)

From initial reports it is already clear that the sharp clash which took place at the Preparatory Conference between India and its supporters on one side and the militant group (Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Cuba) on the other, is continuing with equal force in the Ambassadors' conference. India seems to be resolutely pressing her point of view that the summit conference should be broadened to include as many additional states as possible. The militants, apparently equally adamant, are trying to keep additional participation to a minimum. The battles between the two factions over the consideration of individual countries promises to be hard fought. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Incidents on the Israeli-Syrian Border.

Widely scattered incidents along Syrian-Israeli border have occurred almost daily during the past ten days, but with few casualties reported and exchanges of fire confined to small arms. Although the Cairo press belabored "Israeli aggression" and announced UAR readiness to repel any attack, instigators in fact appear in several cases to be Syrians, firing at Israeli workers in Demilitarized Zones. One curious feature of the affair is the comparative restraint, after its initial outburst, shown by the Cairo papers. Usually only too pleased to have an excuse for scare headlines, the press has made only passing mention of border incidents of the last few days. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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MILITARY

ARMY - Negative.

AIR

1. Javelin-Viper U.S.-Manufactured Rockets for UAR?

The UAR is making an effort to obtain six two-stage Javelin-Viper rockets mated to sodium-lithium payloads from the Zimay Corporation of Monrovia, California. The UAR has indirectly requested the Air Attache to assist in obtaining MATS airlift to Cairo for these rockets.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Air Marshal Sidky has expressed personal interest in this rocket purchase through Dr. Hassan Marie, President of the UAR Aerospace and Astronautic Administration. The UAR is equally as interested in using these rockets during its July 23 celebration as it is in obtaining the rockets for scientific purposes. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. MIG-19s.

The UAR Foreign Liaison Officer promised the Air Attache he would see MIG-19 aircraft during the July 23 celebration of Revolution Day.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. New PL 480 Agreement.

June 24 signing of new PL 480 agreement providing four million dollars worth of yellow corn and vegetable oil received useful, reasonably accurate coverage in "Gumhuriya", "Ahram", "Massa", "Egyptian Gazette" and French language papers, reflecting current relative calm in US-UAR relations. In addition, the news was carried on radio. Reports, including pictures in "Gumhuriya", "Gazette", "Bourse" and "Journal D'Egypte", made U.S. role completely clear. In general, coverage was based on Embassy approved USIS release. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Angola Week.

Week marking Afro-Asian solidarity with Angola was climaxed with public meeting at Press Syndicate where following resolutions were taken: UN should implement universal declaration of human rights in Angola; Portugal should be urged to free all her colonies, Angola in particular; African peoples support Angolans while condemning Portugal's genocidal war. However, the resolutions received scant attention in

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From Embassy CAIRO

the press, and there is little indication of public interest in the issue. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen

Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

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Air - Colonel Bechtel
USIS - CReynolds

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35 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION INB- REC'D 7-11	DEPT. IN F OTHER CIA- OSD- ARMY- NAVY- NSA- USIA- AIR	RMIR- Rep- NEA- CU- ICA IO		
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5. Farmer Migration to Abis
6. UAR Radio Continues Expansion

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From Cairo

POLITICAL

1. UAR Reaction to Kuwait Crisis

The difficult position which the UAR feels itself in as a result of the Iraq-Kuwait dispute is evident from the cautious tone of the official statements it has issued, as well as the ambivalent quality of editorial commentary in the press. The UAR clearly deplores Qassem's territorial acquisitiveness and the manner in which he has asserted it, yet at the same time the UAR obviously feels uncomfortable about finding itself on the same side of a controversy with two "feudal" Arab rulers like the Shaikh of Kuwait and King Saud, not to mention the old imperialist enemy - the British. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

In the only official statements it has issued (June 28 and 30), the UAR made clear its support for Kuwait, avoiding, however, direct attacks on Qassem. With the news that British troops had landed in Kuwait, the press cried that a day of shame had come to all Arabs, and attacked Qassem squarely for having given the "imperialists" the chance to land troops on Arab soil by his ill-conceived behavior. In the last two days the press has been trying, with some difficulty, to refocus its attack away from Qassem and on to the British. As a leading editorialist put it: Qassem is a temporary affliction which the Arabs are suffering from - British imperialism remains "an octopus" threatening the Arabs at all times. There was even a suggestion in the press on July 5 that the UAR might welcome the replacement of the British troops in Kuwait with a UN force. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Non-Aligned Ambassadors Conference

After much wrangling, the Ambassadors conference of non-aligned states in Cairo appears finally to be making some progress on the selection of additional countries for invitation to the heads of state conference in Yugoslavia in September. So far only three states have definitely been agreed on: Lebanon, Bolivia, and Ecuador. The conference is now in the process of considering a compromise package of African states consisting of Nigeria, Togo, Upper Volta, and Tanganyika. Cuba and Ghana, leading the extremist faction at the conference, do not favor the package. India has promised not to press for consideration of a long list of other potential invitees if the African package is accepted and if Cuba drops its objections to the invitation of Cyprus. Cuba had been opposing Cyprus on the grounds that it failed to take a stand in the UN support of Cyprus at the time of the recent rebel invasion attempt. (SECRET)

MILITARY

ARMY

Israeli - Syrian Border Incidents

The coverage being accorded the seriousness of the border situation between Israeli and Syria was virtually dropped from the Cairo press as headlines and editorials concentrated on Iraq's claim to Kuwait and the developing situation there. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Comment: There were reports of Brigade - sized military movement into the Sinai during the period. Road reconnaissance trips by the Asst US Naval Attache at Port Said and the Asst US Army Attache from Cairo failed to reveal any other unusual military reaction to current events. (CONFIDENTIAL)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Press/Radio Propaganda Line

Editorially and news-wise UAR press and radio was this week dominated by the Kuwait crisis (see Political). Following are additional items of interest:

2. UAR Bookshops Abroad

The UAR will shortly open book stores in several major capitals, according to press reports. Announced purpose of the stores will be to acquaint world opinion with the UAR viewpoint on Arab and world affairs and to combat Zionist propaganda. The bookshops will offer for sale books, booklets and other printed material in foreign languages and in Arabic. First store will be opened in London in August, with others following shortly in Geneva, New York and Rome. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. UAR-Israel Border Tensions

Earlier in the week UAR press continued to predict imminent "aggression" by Israel, basing its prophecies on unattributed reports that Israeli troops were massing along the armistice lines in the Northern Region, and the fact that Israel had publicly expressed fear of the growing strength of UAR forces. Said Al Gomhouria: "Every time Israel complains of our military power and of the huge quantities of armaments at our disposal, its lamentations mark the prelude to a new aggression." (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Ambassador Badeau's Arrival

Major Cairo dailies front-paged story and/or pictures on Ambassador Badeau's arrival in the UAR. His airport statement was accurately reproduced in most newspapers. Previous to Ambassador Badeau's arrival, the UAR press gave substantial coverage to his appointment and subsequent statements. (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. Farmer Migration to Abis

All newspapers and major magazines gave heavy coverage to the movement of 200 families to land at Abis near Alexandria recently reclaimed by EARIS (Egyptian-American Rural Improvement Service). However, only Al Gomhouria and the English-language Egyptian Gazette mentioned EARIS, and no credit was given to American participation in the project. Attitude of the press was not surprising, since American assistance was all but ignored in official speeches at the ceremony marking the departure of the farmers for their new homes.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL

6. UAR Radio Continues Expansion

Voice of the Arabs will set up a special transmission station for Algeria scheduled to begin operation on November 1, 1961, according to press reports. It will operate on two short wave frequencies and one medium wave frequency.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

Political - MSterner
Army - Colonel Joy
USIS - R. Helgerson

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2. Moscow Militarism.
3. Murrow on UAR.

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POLITICAL

1. Kuwait Crisis.

The UAR's attitude toward the situation in Kuwait underwent little further development during the week. No official statements have been issued. Press editorials (see Psychological) have focused their attack on the British and have tried to prove Britain's "ulterior motives" by claiming that it has landed a force in Kuwait out of all proportion to the force required to meet the threat posed by Iraq. For a period of several days all mention of Iraq and Qassem was omitted from editorials in an effort to minimize the Iraqi threat and put the onus for the situation on the British; however, more recently, Qassem has reappeared in the press as the object of sharp criticism. Determined to avoid the simplest explanation that Qassem has created the crisis without outside assistance, the press has strained to find evidence of collusion between Qassem and the "imperialists". An "Ahram" article on July 10 said it was the view of "informed Arab quarters in Cairo" (usually the designation for an official viewpoint) that Qassem, with British backing, had brought on the Kuwait crisis in a deliberate attempt to wreck the progress achieved at the recent Arab League Defense Council meeting toward setting up a joint Arab military command and a coordinated Arab military effort. (A-10).
(OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Toward the end of the week comment on Kuwait was held in abeyance pending the meeting of the Arab League, scheduled for June 12, to consider Kuwaiti admission to the League. It is probable, judging by press comments and other indications, that the UAR will support Kuwait's admission over Iraqi objections. The view of an "Arab League source", reported in "Ahram" newspaper June 12, may well reflect the position which the UAR intends to take at the League meeting: if Iraq has any objections to the admission of Kuwait, its delegation can reserve Iraq's rights on this question. The Iraqi claim can later be considered "within the Arab front" and free from outside influences. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Agreement Reached on Additional Invitees to Non-Aligned Summit Conference.

The conference of Ambassadors representing non-aligned states ended July 5 with agreement to invite six additional countries to participate in the heads of state conference to be held in Belgrade on September 1. They are Nigeria, Togo, Upper Volta, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Lebanon. In addition the conference also decided to leave it up to the host country (Yugoslavia) as to whether it wished to renew the invitations to Brazil and Mexico, inasmuch as these two states had never formally declined their original invitations. If all invitations are accepted, a total of 29 countries, plus the Provisional Algerian Government, will take part in the Belgrade conference. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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The agreement represents a compromise achieved only after a long and tough fight in the conference between India, which wanted to broaden the conference as much as possible, and the extremists (Ghana-Guinea-Mali-Cuba) which wanted to keep additional invitations to a minimum. India fought hard to include Tanganyika but in the end had to accept its omission in the face of obstinate Cuban opposition to Tanganyikan participation. Although disappointed on this score, the Indians were reportedly pleased that the final agreement would result in ~~more~~ equal representation between the Monrovia and Casablanca groups of African states (5 Monrovia - 5 Casablanca). (CONFIDENTIAL) (Embtel 44)

3. Algerian Leaders in Cairo.

Provisional Algerian Government "Deputy Prime Minister" Belkassem Krim arrived in Cairo July 8, accompanied by Minister of State Mohammed al-Said, to discuss the latest Algerian developments with UAR officials and with Arab Ambassadors in Cairo. After meetings with Ali Sabri, Minister for Presidential Affairs, and with Foreign Minister Fawzi, the Algerian group had an interview with President Nasser, now on vacation in Alexandria, who reaffirmed the UAR's material, diplomatic and political support for the Algerian cause, including its "territorial integrity". Krim, in turn, stated Algeria's determination to continue the fight against France until all of Algeria, including the Sahara, is independent.

On July 10 Minister of Armaments Boussof joined Krim in Cairo for talks with Arab Ambassadors and Arab League officials. Press reports indicate that the Algerians, according to statements attributed to Krim, are willing to resume negotiations with the French "without restrictions or conditions", but that no date for the resumption of talks has been set. If obstacles to resumption appear, said Krim, the Algerian question might be taken to the next session of the UN.

4. Visit of Northern Nigeria Premier.

The Prime Minister of Northern Nigeria, Sir Ahmadu BELLO, arrived in Cairo on July 9 for a six-day official visit to the UAR. He has seen several factories and other sights on the standard VIP tour, and is going to Damascus today (July 12) for a short visit. The Premier has had two talks with Nasser, who is vacationing in Alexandria. According to press accounts, the discussions have dealt primarily with possible exchanges of professors and students and UAR technical assistance to Northern Nigeria. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. UAR-Guinea Military Pact in Force.

The ratification instruments of the military cooperation agreement between the UAR and Guinea were exchanged on July 5 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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From Amembassy Cairo

Lt. General Mohammed IBRAHIM, Minister of State for Military Affairs, signed for the UAR and Mr. Keiba FODIBA, Minister of Defense, signed for Guinea. The two principals then delivered speeches expressing their appreciation and predicting stronger relations and mutual benefits as a result of the pact.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: This ratification concludes conversations begun at the Casablanca Conference in January and continued between Presidents Nasser and Toure in May.

Only immediate results anticipated are possible furnishing of some military equipment and a few technical advisors to Guinea. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Military Missions in UAR.

Military missions to the UAR have been arriving and departing at a steady pace. General Abdul Haris NASUTION, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Army, is heading a military mission which arrived in Cairo on July 8 for a 10-day visit. On July 11, this mission paid a visit to the "Storm Unit" School and the Air Academy.

A Guinean Military Mission departed Cairo on July 7 for Guinea at the conclusion of their visit. On July 8, Guinean Army Commander, General Kita NOMANDIAN, arrived by special plane from Conakry for talks in Cairo.

A military mission from Brazil is expected to arrive next week. (UNCLASSIFIED)

AIR

1. UAR Decides Not to Use MATS Transport for Javelin-Viper Rockets.

On July 9 the UAR Foreign Office transmitted an Aide Memoire declaring that they desire not to avail themselves of MATS transport for three Javelin-Viper rockets purchased from the Zimay Corporation of Monrovia, California. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Apparently high level decision to hold the dollar credit line superseded UAR zeal to have their rockets fired during the July 23 Revolution Day celebration, resulting in a cancellation of the rather expensive transportation of the rockets by MATS. Further, the political impact of a UAR rocket firing has been considerably diluted by Israel's rocket shoot in early July. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Britain Attacked on Kuwait Issue.

Throughout the week, the press campaigned to identify Britain as the true villain of the Kuwaiti story. On July 10, "Rose El Youssef" went so far as to identify Britain as the author of a "premeditated conspiracy to

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From Amembassy Cairo

occupy Kuwait and deprive it of its independence before it really was born." Stressed daily and loudly by many voices was an insistence that Britain withdraw her troops. In general, the overall situation was seen as an assault on the entire "Arab nation" with "Akhbar" observing on July 10 that any Arab discord only strengthened Israel. By July 11, "Ahram" was able to rationalize matters as follows: the Arab League, scheduled to meet on July 12, should consider how to prevent imperialism from playing false friend while its true role is to assert its domination over Arab countries, and how to prevent an internal dispute from disrupting Arab unity. Meanwhile, Iraq came off comparatively easy although Ahmed Baha El Dine, writing in "Akhbar" on July 8, called on Qassem to end his propaganda so that Britain might be deprived of all moral support. And perhaps reflecting a rather closely held UAR position, "Ahram" on July 10 cited "Arab quarters in Cairo" as indicating that freedom of navigation in the Canal would be maintained except in a war to which the UAR was party. "It is inconceivable", the paper said, "that the UAR would enter into war with Britain just because Qassem is carrying out a maneuver shrouded with mystery from all sides." In effect, the editors found the passage of British warships through the waterway completely and routinely in accord with the Treaty of 1888 and the Declaration of 1957 despite demands from Baghdad radio that the ships be barred and efforts by "pro-imperialist quarters" to make a big thing of their passage. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Moscow Militarism.

Although bannerlined by "Ahram" and frontpaged by all papers on July 10, news coverage of the USSR's mammoth military air show was confined to wire reports. There has not been any editorial reaction to date. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Murrow on UAR.

Among other things, the statement by Edward R. Murrow regarding desirability of additional funds to allow USIA to compete effectively with information efforts of USSR, Communist China, and UAR evoked the following observation from Nasser El Din Nashashibi, co-editor of "Gumhuriya": "In the midst of world events and above them looms the name of the UAR, its causes and the propaganda war against it. During the last 24 hours, the UAR was discussed in the US Congress, the White House, USIA, Tel Aviv and Kuwait. Mr. Clark (sic) Murrow, head of USIA, called on his government to increase the financial appropriations for US propaganda, the wealthiest propaganda in the world, in order that the US may compete with the propaganda efforts of the biggest world powers, foremost of which is the UAR. In the US Congress, Democratic Representative Holtzman protested against the export of rockets to the UAR In Israel, the Communications Minister attacks Ben Gurion for having launched the Jewish rocket without taking the advice of his colleagues and ministers. Ben Gurion in defending himself claims that he had to launch the rocket when he learned that the UAR had purchased rockets from the USA. The UAR is discussed in the British Commonwealth Council and is splashed over British newspapers in reference to the Kuwaiti issue

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From Amembassy Cairo

The UAR has occupied its proper place under the sun."

For the Ambassador:

Francis O. Allen

Francis O. Allen
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Contributors:

Political	-	DScott, RJBarrett, MSterner
Army	-	Lt. Colonel Joy
Air	-	Colonel Stewart
USIS	-	CReynolds

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JULY 27 1961
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8. Shaikh of Qatar on Official Visit to UAR

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1. Ninth Annual Revolution Day Parade
2. UARAF Graduation

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Ninth Anniversary of Revolution
2. Economic Decrees
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From Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Sweeping Social and Economic Reforms

During the past week, on the eve of and during the celebration of the ninth anniversary of the revolution, Nasser has issued a series of decrees which in some respect are the most sweeping social and economic changes to be put into effect in Egypt since the revolution. The most important of these measures are (a) nationalization 149 major enterprises in both regions, including all banks and insurance companies (b) Government capital participation with a minimum share of 50% in a further 91 companies (c) maximum individual capital participation limited to LE 10,000 in any one of 159 companies (d) 25% of a company's profits to go to its workers; workers also to have representatives on the company's board of directors. (e) Income tax scale for Egypt amended with a sizeable increase in the upper brackets; a progressive income tax instituted for the Syrian Region (f) maximum amount of land which any individual may own reduced from 200 to 100 feddans (g) cancellation of one-half of the indebtedness to the Government of all fallaheen who have bought land under the agrarian reform (h) imposition of a progressive tax on rents derived from residential property (Egypt only). Properties taken over under the above decrees are to be compensated with interest-bearing Government bonds. In addition Nasser said in his speech on July 22 that in the course of the next few years two further steps would be taken (i.) a seven-hour working day would be instituted (j) an interest-free agricultural loan bank would be created. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Nasser Justifies Reforms

Nasser's 2-hour speech on July 22 was devoted almost entirely to a justification of the "socialist" reforms which had just been decreed. In extremely repetitive fashion Nasser dwelt on the social injustices of the former regime when 95% of the people served a 5% "master class". The 1952 revolution had been only the political start of a process which was now becoming the reshaping of society from top to bottom with the aim of eliminating the barriers between social classes and achieving complete social justice. The objective was to wipe out the "dictatorship of capitalism". The regimes motive was not, however, revenge, or the elimination of the institution of private ownership, and this was testified to by the fact that the Government was not confiscating the properties without compensation. Reviewing the decrees, Nasser said there would be more to come in the future; the progress toward socialism was not something that had an end to it, it was a continuing process.

At several points in the speech Nasser went on the defense to answer specific criticisms: he admitted to some mistakes and "negligence" in Government operations, also that bribe-taking and nepotism had not been wholly eliminated.

In a brief run-down of foreign policy issues at the end of the speech, Nasser criticized annexationist "manoeuvres" in the Kuwait situation (without attacking directly), announced full support for Bourguiba in his fight against the

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French over Bizerte despite past UAR-Tunis differences, and reiterated standard UAR policies on a number of other issues. (Embtel 160 July 23, 1961)
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Nasser did not appear to be in top oratorical form, probably because during a major part of the speech he was on the defensive, and not on the attack, when he is at his most effective. There were few touches of humor, and practically no fire in his tone. Except for a five-minute period of frenzied and obviously stimulated cheering when he mentioned the nationalization of all banks, audience response was on the whole lacklustre.
(OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. Initial Embassy Appraisal of New Decrees

While there are probably a number of factors which figured in Nasser's decision to take such far-reaching measures at this particular time, the Embassy feels that basically they may be viewed as a radical extension of the existing pattern of authoritarian socialism evolved pragmatically by Nasser. Nasser's admiration for Tito and the Yugoslav system may have had some effect on his thinking; it is also believed on fairly good evidence that for several years certain of Nasser's closest advisors have been urging him in the direction of doctrinaire Marxian socialism. At bottom however, despite certain suggestions of outside influence, the Embassy believes the new decrees to spring from indigenous concepts designed to cope with indigenous political, economic and social problems, rather than to fit the UAR into the ideological system of world communism.

Other motivating factors may have played a part, particularly as to the timing of the decrees. Plain need for cash - the desire to add to state revenue the profits of these nationalized enterprises in order to meet the increasingly heavy burden of servicing and repaying the UAR's development loans - may have been an important motivation. On the political side, a reference during Nasser's speech to "the infiltration into the political structure" of capitalist "opportunists" suggests that one of his objectives may have been to put an end, once and for all, to any possibility of a future political resurgence on the part of the moneyed class. There also seems little doubt that in the broad political sense Nasser has recently felt the need for a renewal of revolutionary impetus in the UAR, particularly at this time, the anniversary of the revolution. Another possibility is that Nasser, feeling his image in the Arab world as leader of Arab nationalism and unity has faded, is seeking to recapture his prestige and popularity with the Arab masses by presenting himself as the new champion of egalitarianism and social reform.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

4. Busy Week at the Arab League

The special session of the Arab League on July 20 ended as predicted, with the admission of Kuwait as a full member and the walk-out of the Iraqi delegate in what is interpreted as the beginning of a boycott of League activities, rather than a formal withdrawal. The Saudi Arabian proposal, which was

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approved by all members except Iraq, contained provisions for the admission of Kuwait into the League, request for British withdrawal, and "practical assistance" to safeguard Kuwaiti independence. League SYG Hassouna reportedly has begun formation of an Arab force to relieve the British. While Jordan, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia are being mentioned as possible contributors to such a force, there is no evidence that Hassouna has obtained any commitments to date.

With the Kuwaiti crisis receding into the background for the time being, the League Council met on July 24 for consideration of the French-Tunisian military action over Bizerte. The Council decided unanimously (Iraq absent) to support Tunisia "by every means" and to despatch volunteers at once, with additional units being readied for action later. It was also agreed that delegates of Morocco, Libya, Tunisia and the UAR would constitute a committee to follow the situation at Bizerte and expedite the Council's decisions.

Comment: Cairo press of July 26 reports that volunteer enrollment centers are being opened in the UAR, but the Embassy doubts that many volunteers will show up. A similar project to assist Algeria has had negligible success.

5. Non-Aligned Conference Developments

Comments that Embassy officers have had from members of the diplomatic corps indicate that Gizenga may attend the Non-Aligned Conference. Ghana Embassy officers are particularly insistent that since the Preparatory Committee did not specifically decide not to invite Gizenga, he will attend. In fact, these officers insist that if he does not, Ghana will withdraw from the Conference. The Ghana Ambassador expressed a variation on the views, indicating that if a unified Congo government were established in time he understood it would be invited to attend the Belgrade Conference. Officials of other Embassies that participated in the preparatory meetings (e.g., Burma and Somalia) apparently concede that the Preparatory Committee left the question of inviting Gizenga in such a state that his presence at Belgrade is quite probable. (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Bolivian Minister told Embassy officers that he has not heard anything about an invitation to his country to attend the Conference. He said that he has had no word from La Paz. The Minister, however, felt that the invitation might be being handled "personally" between Presidents Tito and Paz Estenssoro, since the two had met twice; he also thought that this personal contact might induce the Bolivian President to attend. Other diplomatic contacts state that Ecuador has accepted an invitation to the Belgrade Conference. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. UAR Delegation to Cuba

An official UAR delegation to the Cuban July 26 celebrations left Cairo July 23 for Habana via Miami. The group was headed by Egyptian Minister of Health TARRAF and included Foreign Ministry officials dealing with Latin

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American matters. One or more members of the group may visit "other countries". (UNCLASSIFIED)

Abdul Aziz ISHAQ, Counselor in the Foreign Ministry, is apparently going (see Weeka #29, July 20, 1961) not as a member of the official delegation but as an invitee of the Cuban government. (UNCLASSIFIED)

7. Mrs. Gizenga in Cairo

The press of July 23 reported the arrival in Cairo of Mrs. Gizenga, accompanied by her daughter and sister. She was quoted as saying that after a three-week visit with Mrs. Lumumba, the two women "will return home to Stanleyville together". According to the July 26 press Mrs. Gizenga will go to Belgrade for medical treatment for her daughter. (UNCLASSIFIED)

8. Shaikh of Qatar on Official Visit to UAR

Shaikh Ahmad Al-Thany, ruler of Qatar, arrived in the UAR on July 25 for a six-day official visit. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

AIR

1. Ninth Annual Revolution Day Parade

MIG-19s were flown at the July 23 celebration. The fly-by consisted of four MI-1 helicopters, eighteen IL-14 transports flying in three-ship V formation, twenty four MIG-15 fighters flying four-ship finger tip formation, five twin jet trainers flying five-ship V formation, thirty IL-28 bombers flying five-ship V formation, thirty-six MIG-17 fighters flying four-ship finger tip formation. When MIG-19 aircraft broke the sound barrier, causing sonic booms, they were beyond visibility of observers. Three battalions of three companies each of paratroopers marched in the parade. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Nine MIG-19s were observed flying practice formation on 19 July. They were flying three-ship V formation. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. UARAF Graduation

On 25 July 1961, thirty-seven cadets and one 2nd Lt. were graduated as pilots at a ceremony held at the Air Force Academy at Bilbeis. An air display of planes piloted by instructors and cadets preceded the commissioning ceremony. The planes were a group of MIG-15s and the UAR jet "Al Kahira", the latter performing a few simple aerobatics. (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Ninth Anniversary of Revolution

While coverage of the ninth anniversary of the revolution was heavy and

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thorough, the press accepted the events surrounding the occasion quite calmly. Neither President Nasser's speech on the anniversary eve nor the military parade on July 23 itself excited much comment.

Touching on the anniversary, AKHBAR said on July 22, "We have become a state of specific significance in world affairs, not a country whose effectiveness ends at its geographic boundaries. In comparison with other peoples we have acquired a special pattern, becoming an example to be emulated." On the same day, GOMHOURIA observed, "Today, when the revolution is about to celebrate its ninth anniversary, it is pursuing its steady march along the path leading to great progress."

A day later, GOMHOURIA said, "During the past nine years while the people lived under the aegis of the revolution, construction never has stopped. For it is directed by the valiant leader Gamal Abdel Nasser. The revolution has afforded to the people auspicious circumstances and made them their own masters and responsible for their present and their future."

At the same time, AKHBAR declared, "Our revolution, at the threshold of its 10th year, enters into it with the same strength and determination with which it entered its first year. For it is a revolution which has aims inspired by our past, right, method and belief."

In anticipation of the military display, AL GOMHOURIA said on July 24, "Our army should be regarded as the guard defending Arab nationalism." On the same date, AL AKHBAR said, "The day on which the world gets rid of imperialism and Zionism, when universal peace will prevail and when complete disarmament takes place, we shall only be too happy to turn our military factories into civil factories manufacturing all sorts of mechanical products of a non-military nature."

2. Economic Decrees

Press reaction to the new economic laws came in the form of editorial justification along lines that could have been anticipated. Naturally, the decrees were given heavy and prominent play from July 20 forward and Minister of State Hatem's explanation received big treatment. A typical comment was GOMHOURIA's on July 20: "The new laws, promulgated by President Nasser, not only consolidate the foundations of the new society being set up by the revolution in our country and depict the distinctive features of this society, but they also remove from the path all obstacles which may handicap our march forward toward our major goal. This objective is the establishment of a society based upon equity and capacity, free from exploitation, animated by a spirit of cooperation and marked by prosperity."

3. Tunisia

The Franco-Tunisian dispute over Bizerte naturally drew wide news coverage with considerable editorial support for the Tunisian people -- but none for Bourguiba whose name was confined to the news. The Arab League stand was welcomed, perhaps because the League's resolution -- whether if

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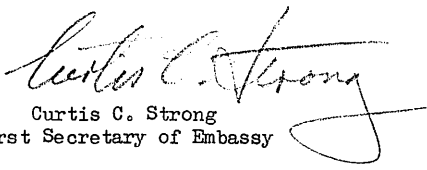
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effective or not -- was more clean cut than in the Kuwaiti situation. Said
COMHOURIA on July 25; "The Arab situation today is marked by the fact that
Arab nationalism has risen to the occasion in every respect by the close
solidarity in any stand taken in the face of colonialism. The Tunisian
people in their present struggle shall not stand alone but shall be
supported by Arab nationalism with all its weight and all its potentiality."

For the Ambassador:


Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary of Embassy

Contributors:

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Air - Colonel Steward
USIS - CReynolds

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CINCNELM; CINCEUR; CINCUSNAVEUR; CONFAIRELM; FICELM; USCOSOUTH;
ARMA Tel Aviv, Chairman MELG, Beirut, CINCUSAREUR; COMIDEST;
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2. Arab League Military Assistance.

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1. Arab Americans in Cairo.
2. LE 12 million Loan.
3. Berlin and East German Refugees.
4. The Press and Social Reform Laws.
5. The US and Tunisia.

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POLITICAL

1. Nasser's Speeches in Alexandria July 26 and 27.

Nasser's major address in Alexandria on July 26, the anniversary of Farouk's exile, was entirely devoted to further justification of his new economic decrees and essentially a repeat performance of his July 22 speech in Cairo. Again heavy stress was given to the contrast between the injustices existing under the former regime, and the new social order in which "capital will be in the service of the people" and not "exploiters". Even more than in his July 22 speech Nasser was at pains to point out that the intention of the new measures was not revenge or punishment of the moneyed class. At one point, Nasser said he had been warned that if the new measures were put into effect production would suffer, so things were best left as they were. "This would not have been possible since there would not be justice, equality, or freedom".

In a shorter address delivered at Alexandria University on the following day, Nasser went over much of the same ground. In the most interesting passage of the speech Nasser said he had been accused of removing himself from people, of isolating himself. He did this, he said, in order to get away from contact with privileged people, so that he could "preserve his way of thinking". (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: While Nasser's three speeches on the economic decrees do not suggest any lack of confidence in his mass appeal or his power to carry out his new program, the defensive position which he adopted in many places, plus his heavy emphasis on the "mercifulness" with which the expropriated class has been treated, leave the impression that he is aware that the latest decrees have disturbed, if not alienated, a large class of people whose services are valuable to the nation. (Embtel 190). (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Tunisian Crisis.

In a week crammed with visits to Cairo and Tunis by ministers, ambassadors and Arab League officials, a series of press interviews and official pronouncements have brought out only the following points:

1. The UAR has offered to support Tunisia with military assistance, medical supplies, volunteers and funds, stated to be LE 200,000 for aid to the "victims of Bizerte".

2. Diplomatic relations between the two countries can be expected to be resumed within a short period of time.

The UAR, in its controlled press, has also tended to emphasize the Tunisian swing to non-alignment by quoting at length a press interview with Tunisian Foreign Secretary General (and ex-Ambassador to Cairo) Tayeb el-SAHBANI, who reportedly said that Tunisian foreign policy is

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based on non-participation in any alliance, non-involvement with either of the two contending world blocs, removal of foreign bases, and other points dear to non-aligned hearts. The press also noted that the Tunisian Foreign Minister is currently on a visit to Moscow, and added that the UAR Ambassador to the USSR, Dr. Murad GHALEB, is in constant touch with the Soviet Foreign Ministry on the Tunisian situation. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: Although on the surface UAR and Tunisian relations have unquestionably improved, the basic rivalry between Nasser and Bourguiba is likely to persist, and there is some question as to how permanent the present rapprochement will be. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. Kuwait-Iraq Dispute.

The conflict between France and Tunisia, and preoccupation with internal economic matters, has pushed the Kuwait-Iraq issue into the background insofar as the UAR is concerned, but a military mission from the Arab League was reported on August 1 as going to Kuwait "within the next few days" to inspect the positions to be occupied by the Arab force that will replace the British. A League official has stated that five unspecified Arab countries will contribute troops for the defense of Kuwait, but the size and composition of the force has not been announced. In all likelihood, both topics are still being considered by the League, which is probably only now becoming aware of the magnitude of the logistical and technical difficulties created by the formation, transport, supply, and command of a mixed unit. (see Army). (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

4. North and South Korean Delegations in Cairo.

A North Korean goodwill mission arrived in Cairo on about July 22 and departed August 1. Nasser and other ranking officials have had talks with them. The press reported that on August 1 documents were exchanged between the North Koreans and the UAR Foreign Ministry providing for an exchange of consular representation between the two countries.

In the meantime, on July 29, a South Korean goodwill mission arrived in Cairo, and it too has been holding discussions with top UAR officials (Nasser, however, has not received them to date). Neither the South nor the North Koreans have received much publicity in the Cairo press. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: If a North Korean Consulate is actually established in Cairo (the exact provisions of the documents exchanged are not known) it would represent a further gain in North Korean efforts to achieve official recognition. However, in practical terms, North Korean activities in the UAR would probably continue at the same level as they have to date. North Korea has had a "trade mission" in Cairo for some time which has engaged in such uncommercial activities as holding national day celebrations and putting out propaganda releases.

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It is also possible that, in view of the UAR's oft-repeated position of treating both regimes of the divided Asian countries equally, that the question of exchange of some form of official representation between the UAR and South Korea has arisen in discussions with the South Korean delegation. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. Joint African Command Meetings Concluded.

The "Supreme Council of the Joint African Command" (the military council of the Casablanca Conference states) finished its meeting on July 28. The Council issued what appears to be a deliberately vague communique saying only that "practical decisions" had been agreed upon to carry out "obligations for the defense of the continent of Africa". The next two meetings of the Council are to be held in the UAR and Morocco. (A-43, August 4). (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Shaikh of Qatar Departs.

Shaikh Ahmad Al-Thany, ruler of Qatar, left Cairo July 30 after a 6-day official visit. The Shaikh was put through the usual round of visits, official honors and entertainment. No statement or communique was issued on departure, and otherwise there has been no indication that the visit has been more than a routine protocol one. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. New Armored Personnel Carrier.

The only new item of UAR Army equipment appearing in the Ninth Annual Revolution Day Parade was a four-wheeled, open-topped, armored personnel carrier, labelled "El Walid". It carried a squad of twelve including driver and machine gunner, and had a weapon mounted on the cab. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: At most, this vehicle, reminiscent of the Soviet BTR-40, was only "assembled" in the UAR. Numbers of marching units and quantity of equipment displayed was substantially less than in previous years. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Arab League Military Assistance.

1. El Sayed Abdul Aziz HUSSEIN arrived in Cairo from Kuwait according to press reports to discuss Arab League plans for forces to replace the British in Kuwait. It is proposed that a token force will assemble south of Suez and move by sea. The British will not be asked to leave until the Arab Force actually arrives. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Composition of the force has not been announced. Many League members have current obligations: Saudi Arabia already has a token force in Kuwait; UAR claims all of its forces are required to meet the "Israeli threat";

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From Embassy CAIRO

Tunisia is currently occupied with the French; Libya, Lebanon, and Sudan have all been cool to the idea of contributing their own forces; Jordan's sympathies seem to be with Iraq; and Morocco has units in the Congo.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

2. In accordance with Arab League support of Tunisia, the UAR announced it had sent military supplies to Tunisia. Press reports some 3,334 UAR volunteers have enlisted for service in Tunisia. No details are reported as to the nature of the aid, timing or method of shipment.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Arab Americans in Cairo.

More than 100 delegates to the conference of the Federation of Islamic Clubs of the US and Canada left Cairo Saturday after 10 days exposure to a grueling round of official functions sponsored by the GUAR. The delegates - mostly from Toledo, Detroit and Cedar Rapids - were exhorted on every hand to take an active part in the UAR-Israeli dispute upon their return home. Beginning at 8 a.m. and lasting until well after midnight every day, the schedule of activities included such things as visits to salt plants, steel mills and textile factories and a daily round of luncheons, teas and dinners, each accompanied by lengthy and essentially similar speeches. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

In Cairo at the same time were some 50 members of the Federation of Lebanese-Syrian Clubs in the U.S. (a Christian organization). Although not here on an official visit, they were included in several of the activities which GUAR arranged for the Islamic group. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The delegates were grateful for the hospitality, but unimpressed with the message. Pro-Arab before they got here, they were resentful of the feverish efforts to convert them. In the final days of the tour, delegates made no effort to disguise their eagerness to depart.
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. LE 12million Loan.

All major dailies gave front-page play to the story of a US loan of 12 million locally held Egyptian pounds to the UAR for support of the production budget. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Berlin and East German Refugees.

For the first time, pro-Western views on the Berlin question appeared in the UAR press and TV last week. Writing in "Gumburiya", Mohamed Mahboub said: "The solution ... is very simple, logical and natural. It lies in the mere recognition of the right to self-determination for the German people."

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From Amembassy CAIRO

This would mean that the German people would recover their unity which is in the USSR's viewpoint 'an evil entailing grave consequences' ... The USA is the only big power that does not oppose the unity of the two Germanies on condition that public elections be held in which the entire German people would participate with a view to electing a truly representative Government." On July 30, UAR-TV devoted a 10-minute news commentary show to a description of the exodus of East German refugees. Accurate figures on the daily refugee count were used, along with pictures of refugees and the refugee center in West Berlin. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Perhaps not completely unconnected with this favorable treatment is the fact that West Germany recently extended large credits to the UAR. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. The Press and Social Reform Laws.

A concerted press campaign to gain acceptance for the new socio-economic decrees was highlighted by an article by Salah Salem, editor of "Gumhuriya". Describing the new laws limiting income and land ownership as promising "a great forward surge from a community living under feudalism and capitalism to Socialism," the editor devoted most of his article to anticipating the arguments which will be advanced against the new laws by its "enemies". While saying several times that the decrees did not mean that everyone would be reduced to a common denominator of poverty, Salem never quite came to grips with the economics of the question and offered little reassurance to the many who have been privately voicing the very fear he was trying to allay. (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. The US and Tunisia.

Ahmad Baha 'El Din, writing in "Akhbar", sees de Gaulle's "defiance" of the UN as a blow to the West's attempts to discredit the USSR for the same sort of attitude. "And now that a big Western power has declared it does not recognize UN resolutions ... how can the West expect the Soviet Union to recognize UN resolutions if they do not meet with its approval?" asks the writer. "The USA wanted to embarrass the Soviet Union ... to have the Eastern Camp appear disrespectful to the UN in order to impress the Afro-Asian and newly developing nations ... How can the USA dare embark on such a campaign now that de Gaulle has looked down on the UN with disdain ... and she (US) has not raised one finger ..." (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary

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From Embassy CAIRO

Contributors:

Political - DScott, MSterner
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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : American Embassy CAIRO

81

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

August 10, 1961

DATE

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	8/14	CIA-16 USIA-11 Army-35 Navy-20 Air-15 OSD-2 NSC-1 NSA-4 Agr-2 COM-2 LAB-2 TR-2	

SUBJECT:

JOINT WEEKA. NO. 32

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3. Cotton Worm Killer
4. The press and the Social Reform Laws
5. UAR Editorialists Reply to Attacks by Communists and Reactionaries

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From Cairo

POLITICAL

1. South Korean Goodwill Mission

The South Korean goodwill mission departed from the UAR on August 4. Members of the mission told Embassy officers that the agreement which had been reached about a year ago for the establishment of a ROK Consulate General in Cairo had been "confirmed in principle" during the present visit, but implied that practical arrangements had not yet been agreed to with the GUAR. Nor did they indicate whether their own government had in fact made up its mind to open a consulate in Cairo. The mission was obviously unhappy about the fact that they were not received by Nasser, especially since Nasser did receive the North Korean delegation (the visit of the latter overlapped with the ROK's stay in Cairo). (CONFIDENTIAL)

In its only reference to the subject of UAR-South Korean relations, Cairo press on August 7 noted that the South Koreans had requested an exchange of consular representation with the UAR, and added that "it understood that Cairo was content for the time being" with an exchange of consular representation with both South Korea and North Korea. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The Embassy's impression is that while the UAR did not exactly give the South Korean mission the cold shoulder, it treated them cautiously and displayed an obvious lack of eagerness to rush into a new official relationship at this stage. (Embtel 243) (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. UAR Support for Tunisia

As a result of the French-Tunisian conflict over Bizerta, relations between the UAR and Tunisia continue to improve. Restoration of diplomatic relations appears now to be a certainty with the UAR announcement that a diplomatic mission, headed by a second secretary, will leave on August 19 to reopen the UAR Embassy, although so far there has been no indication that an Ambassador has been named.

Active support for Tunisia, insofar as the Embassy can determine, has taken the form of promises of "military and technical aid", without specific mention of troop commitment, and Tunisian Foreign Minister Mokaddam has declared that Tunisia is content with such backing. The only aid that has been confirmed is several truckloads of medical supplies, but rumors persist that a contingent of UAR troops (750 men, according to one report) has been despatched. It is not clear whether the rumored troops are combatant or non-combatant.

In another gesture of support, evacuation of the French forces from Tunisia was reportedly demanded by National Assembly Speaker Sadat in a cable to the UN. Volunteers to fight in Tunisia are still being registered, and at last report had reached a total of over 4,000, the bulk of whom appear to be without military training or experience and, hence, could not be utilized

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without a minimum period of training.

The President of the UAR Students Union also announced the formation of a battalion of University students, whose training would begin on August 10 in Alexandria. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. Persian Gulf Rulers Visit to UAR

The visit of the Sheikh of Qatar (Weeks 31, August 3) was followed by a similar official visit on the part of the Ruler of Dubai, Emir Rashid Ben el-Maktoum, who arrived in Cairo August 5, accompanied by his two sons, at the invitation of the UAR. The first two days of his stay were occupied with the usual round of factory inspections, after which he went to Alexandria to see President Nasser, was decorated with the Collar of the Nile and attended a dinner given in his honor by the President.

The Imam of Oman, Ghalab Ben Ali, accompanied by the faithful Soliman Ben Himyar, Sheikh of the Jebel Akhdar, came to Cairo from Saudi Arabia on August 7 with the announced purpose of stirring up support for the Omani case prior to the General Assembly debate in the fall. Ghalab reportedly told the press that he planned to submit an application for Omani membership in the Arab League very soon, and would ask the League to double its "material and moral aid" to Oman. He added that this move would be followed by application for membership in the UN. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Neither the British Embassy nor we see any great significance in the visit of the Ruler of Dubai and are inclined to consider it as purely a protocol matter. Similarly, the Imam of Oman turns up here periodically with the same statements each time about the "gallant struggle of the people of Oman". The Embassy does not rate very highly his present chances of attaining membership in the Arab League. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MILITARY

ARMY

"Arab Security Force" for Kuwait

1. The Arab League Mission to Kuwait headed by Lt. General Ahmed Halim IMAN visited King SAUD at Taif on 6-7 August and the Ruler of KUWAIT on 7-8 August. The Mission reportedly comprises military representatives from the UAR, LEBANON, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN and the Arab League Secretariat. Dr. Sayed NOFAL, Arab League Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and El Sayed Abdul Aziz HUSSEIN, the Kuwaiti Delegate, also accompanied the Mission. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The press, quoting key members of the mission, continues to maintain that all countries with the exception of IRAQ were expected to provide units for the Arab Force. Even TUNISIA and SUDAN - although not signatories to the Arab League Defence Pact - are expected to send token contingents. However, in private conversation League officials admit that there is some doubt that Lebanon, the Sudan, Libya and the UAR will participate. Jordanian

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From Cairo

conditions probably eliminate Jordan also. According to the Jordanian Charge, they are (1) all Arab countries must participate; (2) same number of troops must come from each; (3) Kuwait must pay all expenses. While the final decisions as to size and composition of the force to be dispatched must await the return of the military mission, League thinking at present revolves around the figure of 3,000 men to replace the British. Unless more member states of the League show their willingness to cooperate, it is difficult to see where such a force would come from. No timing for unit arrivals has been announced. Best guess is that it will be some time before an "Arab Security Force" will be available to actually relieve British troops on border patrol. (CONFIDENTIAL)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Return of the Amins

Mustafa and Ali Amin, former owners and publishers of AL AKHBAR, who have been absent from the journalistic scene since their dismissal from AKHBAR in December, this week were appointed to the Board of Directors of Dar Al Hilal Publishing House. The Republican Decree stated that, of the five member board, three men--the two Amins and Fikri Abaza--would serve as editors-in-chief of Al Hilal publications. It would appear that from an operational standpoint this action puts the Amins at the helm of Al Mussawar, a major weekly magazine; Al Hilal, monthly; Al Kawakeb, weekly; Hawa', weekly, and Images, a French weekly. Fikri Abaza has been increasingly ineffective in his position as editor of Mussawar, and has turned over most of the control to Kassem Gouda. Elderly, and in failing health, it seems probable that Abaza will be overshadowed by the Amins.

The position of the Amins in regard to AL AHRAM is less clear. When the press was nationalized in May, 1960, AHRAM and Dar Al Hilal were merged, with Al Hilal as the parent and controlling organization. A literal interpretation of the original Decree would imply that the Amins would now be in a position to exercise some influence over AHRAM. However, the latest decree lists separate boards of directors for the two organizations, so it appears the influence of the Amins will be confined for the time being to Dar Al Hilal. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: The decision to return the irrepressible Amins to active editorships probably was motivated by a desire to sever for once and for all their connection with AKHBAR and at the same time give a shot in the arm to the increasingly shaky Al Hilal publications. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. Soviet Cosmonaut

Cosmonaut Titov was given page one bannerlines in all Arabic dailies, with a heavy volume of feature stories. Editorially, there was an anti-Western flavor in the comment on Titov's triumph. Abd Al Aziz Fahmi, writing in AL GOMHOURIA, said: "...the Soviet victory will force many of the statesmen of the West and its military leaders who consider solving international problems by war to reconsider their thoughts. This would mean that the Soviet

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From Cairo

success in invading space brought a new force in support of world peace..." Fahmi also seizes this opportunity to describe the Berlin crisis as "...the West Berlin issue...", thus making it a Western problem. AL MASAA hailed the event as a great victory for man, and threw in the gratuitous comment: "We should not forget that this feat was accomplished on the day of the anniversary of the Hiroshima bomb which killed 200,000 Japanese." (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Cotton Worm Killer

All Cairo newspapers gave heavy play to the Union Carbide Company shipment of about \$2 million worth of pesticide to combat an invasion of cotton worms in the UAR. Although the first plane in the pesticide airlift arrived in the middle of the night, it was greeted by newspapermen and TV reporters. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. The press and the Social Reform Laws

Confusion surrounding interpretation of the Regime's socio-economic decrees resulted in a press campaign to "clarify" the decrees. Considerable emphasis was given in the press to the Regime's "concern" for the small investor and the need to protect his interests, in what was apparently an attempt to calm widespread fears that the small business would suffer the same fate as the large companies. Stories appeared in all newspapers explaining that the provision for a 7-hour day cannot be implemented at once. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The ambiguous wording of the original decrees left them open to a wide range of misinterpretation. A USIS officer was told by one of the two Cairo police chiefs that last week a large proportion of his force was engaged in settling disputes between workers and management; the workers wanting to leave their jobs after putting in seven hours. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. UAR Editorialists Reply to Attacks by Communists and Reactionaries

UAR press reacted promptly to Lebanese Communist attacks on UAR social reform laws, the Communists claiming that the measures were directed against the workers. Said AL AHRAH: "...the Attitude of the Arab Communists remains unchanged because they are not masters of their will as individuals but are agents who have lost their senses." AL GOMHOURIA said: "The falsity of these allegations can easily be unveiled since the attacks centered on the laws which have made laborers participate in the direction of their welfare and which reduced the working hours to seven and set aside about one quarter of the profits for the workers."

Editorialists also turned on "reactionary" newspapers in Beirut for likewise having attacked Nasser's new measures. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The rebuttals against both Communists and reactionaries were hackneyed in argumentation and appeared to be directed mainly at establishing the point that the attacks from both Left and Right proved the UAR had

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From Cairo

developed its own system for its own needs, and was not indebted to any foreign ideologies. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary of Embassy

Contributors:

ms.
Political - DScott, MSterner
Army - Lt. Colonel Joy
USIS - RHelgerson

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : American Embassy CAIRO

91
DESP. NO.

August 17, 1961

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE

REF :

AUG. 17, 1961

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SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA No. 33

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AIR

Airlift of Cotton Worm Insecticide

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Defense of Revolutionary Laws
2. CBS Interview with President Nasser
3. Insecticide Airlift

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From Cairo

POLITICAL

1. New Cabinet Structure Forthcoming

Minister of Presidential Affairs Hatem announced on August 15 that Nasser has completed drawing up a new ministerial system under which there will be only one ministry for each department instead of the existing three ministries (one Central and two Regional). The new set-up will also provide for the appointment of a number of Vice Presidents, "each of whom will be responsible for a particular department." The announcement putting these decrees into effect is to be made "as early as possible" according to the Hatem statement. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Ever since the issuance of the sweeping economic decrees last month, there have been reports circulating that a ministerial shake-up was forthcoming. According to several of these rumors, some of the more conservative ministers in the present cabinet are on the way out. Other ministers, such as Kamal al-Din Hussain, will supposedly be cut back to one portfolio by way of setting an example at the highest level of implementation of the new law prohibiting any individual from holding more than one job. Whatever changes in cabinet personnel Nasser may have in mind, it seems likely that he will use the coming reorganization of the ministerial system as an opportunity to put them into effect. (Embtl 319) (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. Nasser Comments on Berlin Situation

During an exclusive interview given to Hamburg TV, the text of which was printed in the Cairo press August 14, Nasser covered the domestic and foreign policy scene with restatements of familiar UAR policies and views, carefully worded to bear the image of a moderate and pragmatic ruler. The interviewer's attempt to get Nasser to state a position on the German question produced an exhibition of Nasserian fence-straddling: he was for German reunification but the problem was to reconcile two greatly differing social systems each of which had unrelenting backing from a great power bloc. A solution had to come about through negotiations between these two blocs, but world opinion would not condone any attempt to reach a solution by force. His remarks indicated he was not optimistic about the possibilities of negotiations having much success. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: Nasser's comments are a further expression of his policy, also evident in press treatment of the Berlin crisis in past weeks (A-50 August 11), to avoid siding with either the Soviet Bloc or the West on the question of Germany. However, the day following the publication of the text of the interview, the East German Consulate General in Cairo hastened to interpret Nasser's comments as a victory for the East. A statement issued by the East Germans said that Nasser's comments on the possibility of coexistence between the two Germanys in spite of differing social systems, and his statement that reunification should be approached through negotiations, "were in agreement with the point of view of the government of the GDR." (UNCLASSIFIED)

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3. Congo

In a series of almost daily statements and leaks to the press the Congolese (Stanleyville) Embassy in Cairo has given the impression that Gizenga is dragging his feet about joining the new Adoula government. According to one of these reports probably originating at the Congolese Embassy and appearing in the press on August 15, Gizenga will not participate in the new government unless he or one of his supporters is given the Ministry of Defense portfolio. This report was reinforced by a press report from Stanleyville the following day giving substantially the same information in greater detail. The UAR is apparently waiting for a definite sign from Gizenga as to which way he will go before extending recognition to the Adoula government or taking other further steps in their Congo policy. Congolese Ambassador Val Salumu left for Stanleyville on August 14, and according to the August 16 press, he went specifically at the request of the UAR Foreign Ministry in order to ascertain Gizenga's intentions.

In the meantime the Gizenga regime has continued to try to assure regular air communication between Stanleyville and the outside world. Through a Sudanese resident in Cairo and in collusion with United Arab Airlines, an Air Jordan plane was chartered for a series of Cairo-Stanleyville flights. Four round-trips were made, allegedly carrying to Stanleyville only medical and food supplies and passengers, and reportedly bringing out passengers and unrefined gold dust. At least two of these flights overflew the Sudan clandestinely without clearances. While these flights have been suspended as the result of US intervention with the American principals in Air Jordan, a representative of the latter has been despatched to Leopoldville to seek approval from the central Congolese Government and the UN for continuation of these flights. Moreover, Gizenga has reportedly made a charter arrangement through the same intermediary with Trans-Mediterranean Airlines, though Sudanese authorities claim no clearances have been given to this line, nor have there been any reports of their making clandestine flights. In any case, it is evident that through his mission in Cairo Gizenga is making strenuous efforts to strengthen his position vis-a-vis the central Congolese Government. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. Arab Security Force for Kuwait

In a short meeting presided over by Moroccan Charge Sharaiby, the Arab League Council August 15 approved the agreement between the League's SYG Hassouna and the Ruler of Kuwait for the despatch of an "Arab Security Force" to the Sheikdom. No details were released. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Now that the principle of Arab troops to defend Kuwait has been agreed on, the League's troubles are far from over, since it is still necessary to overcome the reluctance of some of the member states to contribute to the force. The best estimate at the moment is that Saudi Arabia will increase the size of its contingent now in Kuwait to form the bulk of the expected 3,000-5,000 man force, with some other states sending token units of undetermined size. League member countries are shortly to be visited by a military mission

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which will try to encourage support and participation. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. UAR Student Battalion for Bizerte

Local press (14 Aug 61) announced that contacts are now taking place between the UAR Student's Union and the Tunisian Student's Union regarding arrangements for a battalion of UAR students to leave for BIZERTE. The Battalion has been training in camps in Alexandria. Four hundred students, including one hundred girls, have volunteered to go to BIZERTE. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: This student unit, aptly dubbed the "teenage battalion", was spawned at a student rally held during the first of August. "Training" has been in progress for less than three weeks and its military potential is limited to the propaganda aspects of the venture. When asked to comment on the battalion going to Tunis, the UAR Foreign Liaison Officer stated that the UAR Armed Forces had more important things to do and the students' battalion was all the French forces rated. (CONFIDENTIAL)

AIR

1. Airlift of Cotton Worm Insecticide

The UARG and the Union Carbide Company requested MATS assistance to carry 60 tons of Sevin insecticide to Cairo from delivery points along the U.S. eastern seaboard. This request was the result of the inability of commercial airlines to meet the schedule for transporting the materials. On 12 August the Department of Defense agreed in coordination with the State Department to assist the UARG in this matter. As of 0800 hours GMT on 16 August MATS had delivered 76 tons of the insecticide to Cairo, using four C-118 (DC-6's) aircraft, two C-121 (Constellation) aircraft and one C-124 (Globemaster) airplane. Three additional C-124's are enroute carrying the balance of the programmed 115 tons.

DOD also agreed to fix MATS tariff rates at forty-seven cents per pound for the Sevin airlift to the UAR. This is the rate charged by KLM and other commercial lines to haul the insecticide. Normal MATS rates for this type of airlift would have been ninety-seven cents per pound.

Comment: Cairo press comment has been both favorable and adequate regarding MATS participation in this insecticide airlift. GUAR, and significantly UAR military authorities, have evinced pleased surprise at the minimum reaction time required by the U.S. to effect MATS large-scale airlift for the insecticide needed to meet the cotton worm emergency. Additionally these same officials have expressed gratitude for the lowered tariff rates. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Defense of Revolutionary Laws

UAR press and radio continue to defend vehemently and at great length the recently promulgated socio-economic reform laws against attacks which have appeared in Lebanese press, both Communist and so-called "reactionary" papers. There is little of interest in the content of the defense, which consists largely of repetition of reasons for the reform laws, reaffirms the right of any nation to adopt systems which best suit its interests, and attacks detractors as "agents" and reactionaries. It is of interest that such a disproportionate volume of news-space and radio time should be devoted to defense of decrees which have been subjected to public attack only by Lebanese newspapers, which reportedly described the reform laws as "directed against the workers of the UAR." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The prolonged defense of the reform measures cannot be explained entirely as a normal reaction to the Lebanese criticisms. It is more likely that the propaganda campaign is actually an indication of the defensiveness which the regime seems to feel in the face of a strong undercurrent of middle-class dissatisfaction with its new lot. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. CBS Interview with President Nasser

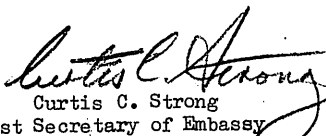
A three-man CBS team--Eric Sevareid, Howard K. Smith and Michael Marlowe--is in Cairo to conduct a video tape interview with President Nasser in Alexandria on August 17. The show will be telecast on August 24. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Insecticide Airlift

The 1,000 ton airlift of Union Carbide Co. insecticide from the U.S. to combat the worm infestation threatening the UAR cotton crop is receiving favorable publicity, especially as regards the participation of MATS planes in the lift. The three major Arabic dailies on two successive days carried stories (front page, in four instances) on the participation of the U.S. Air Force. Said Sayed Marei* in an interview with VOA: "By God, we will remember with all good will the great effort which America made, and which Germany made, to supply insecticides, and (the U.S. effort) to transport these insecticides by aircraft." (UNCLASSIFIED)

* Minister of Agriculture

For the Ambassador:


Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary of Embassy

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From Cairo

Contributors:

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REF :		EHR-5 IO-2 AUG. 30 1961			
ACTION		DEPT.			
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9-2		USIA-11 ARMY-35 NAVY-20 AIR-15 CIA-16 NSA-4			
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3. Arab Security Force for Kuwait
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Arab Forces Kuwait

AIR

Airlift of Cotton Worm Insecticide

PSYCHOLOGICAL

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2. Comment on Tunisia
3. Government Reorganization Backed

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From Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Cabinet Reorganization

A complete reorganization of Nasser's cabinet was announced on August 17. The former Regional Executive Councils have been abolished in favor of a single cabinet headed by 7 Vice Presidents, each of the latter being responsible for a broad area of the Government's activities. The Vice Presidents are: Abd al-Latif AL-BAGHDADI - Planning; Abd al-Hakim AMER - War; Nur al-Din KAHHALA (Syrian) - Production; Zakariah MUHYADIN - Public Organizations (production); Husain AL-SHAFFI, Public Organizations (Services); Kamal al-Din HUSAIN - Local Governments; Abd al-Hamid AL-SERRAJ (Syrian) - Internal Affairs. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Below the Vice Presidents 36 ministers have been appointed. Although some ministries have been centralized (at least on paper) with the appointment of only one minister to manage their affairs, others have more than one minister. The ministers themselves are basically the same old crowd, although some have been switched to new jobs within the cabinet. Of the nine ministers in the old cabinet five were picked to be heads of the important Public Organizations which now control a large segment of the country's economic activity. Only five new faces appear in the cabinet. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The main purpose behind the creation of the new cabinet appears to be the reorganization of the Government's administrative apparatus to handle the greatly increased responsibilities it has assumed with the issuance of last month's economic decrees. The change does not alter the basic line-up of trusted political lieutenants and technicians whom Nasser selected some time ago to help him run the country. Five of the seven Vice Presidents are original Free Officer colleagues. Other key assistants such as Ali Sabri, Foreign Minister Fawzi, Information chief Hatem, continue as before. Perhaps the most interesting question mark in the new set-up will be the actual powers accredited to Serraj in his new position, i.e. whether his designation as Vice President for Internal Affairs will put him in a position of real power, and even if it does, whether he will be able to maintain his control over Syrian affairs, particularly if he is obliged to spend most of his time in Cairo.

While strengthening of control at the expense of Syrian autonomy seems to have been achieved in some areas, in others, two ministers, one Egyptian and one Syrian, have been appointed, and it seems logical to assume that in many fields affairs will be managed on a regional basis, much as they were previously. (Embtel 338) (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Tunisia - UAR Relations

Restoration of full diplomatic relations between Tunisia and the UAR appears to have come closer to realization with an announcement by the UAR Foreign Ministry that three officials and a clerk would leave soon for Tunis to reopen the UAR Embassy. The Ambassador has not so far been named.

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This announcement was followed by a press report that the present Tunisian Ambassador to the USSR, Ahmad al-Mestiri, would be transferred to Cairo as Tunisian Ambassador here. (A-59)(UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Despite the surface indications that Tunisia and the UAR have settled their differences, the "Free Tunisian Student League" in Cairo issued a statement (Embdes 86) attacking the Bourguiba Government for issuing weapons in Bizerte to members of one political party and not to all the Tunisian people. Such an attack could hardly have been made without the knowledge and approval of the UAR. While a staff for the UAR Embassy has been selected, the Foreign Ministry states that no firm date for their departure has been set. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. Arab Security Force for Kuwait

The Arab League military mission attempting to obtain troops for the protection of Kuwait is continuing its tour of Arab countries (see Army). Originally the mission had included Yemen in its itinerary, but the Cairo press on August 22 carried a brief item to the effect that the Yemeni Government has declined to receive them, on the grounds that Yemen is currently pre-occupied with British assaults on its southern border. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Congo

Pierre Mulele, Chief of the Congolese (Stanleyville) Mission in Cairo and Hassan el Sherif, a Sudanese who has been acting as Gizenga's agent in chartering aircraft, have continued to press Air Jordan's Cairo representative, Gamal, to find some formula for the resumption of Cairo-Stanleyville flights which were suspended as a result of US pressure on the American parent company. Air Jordan seems equally interested in continuing the lucrative charter and is exploring several alternate possibilities. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. UAR Delegation to Belgrade Conference

It has been announced that the UAR delegation to the Belgrade Conference will be composed of the following members: Nasser; Foreign Minister Fawzi; Minister Presidential Affairs Ali Sabri; Thabet al-Arees, Minister of Social Affairs and former Ambassador to Yugoslavia; Mahmoud Riad, political advisor to the President; Adnan al-Azhari, member of the United Arab States Council; Hasan Fahmi Ragheb, present UAR Ambassador to Yugoslavia. (Embtel) (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: With Ali Sabri and Mahmoud Riad going, Nasser will be supported by his closest advisors on foreign affairs. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

6. Ambassador Badeau Visits Syria

Ambassador Badeau made his initial visit to the Syrian Region August 9 - 16 to pay calls on Syrian officials and hold discussions with the staffs of our Consulates General in Damascus and Aleppo. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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ARMY

1. Arab Forces Kuwait ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

El Sayed Abdul Aziz HUSSEIN, Kuwait's representative at the Arab League made the statement that, the Arab League Military Mission, headed by LtGen. Ahmed Halim IMAM, had succeeded in its efforts in MOROCCO, TUNIS and LIBYA. LEBANON, JORDAN, and SUDAN will be visited before the Mission returns to Cairo on 25 August (the visit to Yemen has been dropped - see Political). The report continued that Arab Forces would be sent to Kuwait immediately after the Mission returns. The CINC of the Arab Force would also be named at that time. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: How soon these forces will be moved to KUWAIT will depend upon the degree of the Mission's "success", as stated by El Sayed HUSSEIN. Evidently, the Mission began its tour in the area (the Western Arab States) where there was the highest assurance of success and thereby would have a basis for "selling" the remaining Member States. As for the CINC, local press is now reporting that he will come from the Moroccan Armed Forces. (CONFIDENTIAL)

AIR

1. Airlift of Cotton Worm Insecticide

MATS participation in the program for air transportation of "Sevin" insecticide from the U.S. to Cairo was successfully concluded 17 August 1961. Ten aircraft were utilized to transport 122 tons. Aircraft were four C-118's, two C-121's and four C-124's. All aircraft arrived Cairo during a 48-hour period which began 0655 on 15 August and ended 0640 on 17 August. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The UAR Foreign Liaison Officer, Colonel Khattab, has expressed the appreciation of the UAR Government for MATS assistance. Since the airlift program, Colonel Khattab has displayed a more friendly attitude toward the officers in the Air Attache Office. Further, he has promised every assistance that he can render in providing future aircraft clearances and authority to travel throughout the UAR regions. (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Press Freedom - UAR Style

On the very day (Aug. 18) that President Nasser's praise of press freedom delivered to a National Union group was reported in the press, came the news that the President himself had removed Mohamed Fikry Abaza from his posts as chairman of the board of Dar El Hilal Publishing House and Editor of the weekly AL MUSSAWAR. Ostensibly Fikry was relieved because he had suggested in print that the powers set up a neutral federation of Arab countries in which Israelis would constitute a minority group with traditional minority rights. However, some observers believe that the article that actually led to his removal was one in the same issue of AL MUSSAWAR which

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took the form of a make-believe letter from his children visiting Europe, seen by some as a veiled criticism of Nasser's regime. Commenting on Spain, the youngsters say: "Although Franco had saved Spain from Communist massacres and Civil War and had performed great reforms, yet he was met with ingratitude on the part of his opponents. To our knowledge it seems that these opponents prefer individual freedom to glory and reform...freedom of speech...freedom of going and coming, freedom of meeting and so on...Freedom is a human instinct, there is no logic to explain it." Still others suggest that the regime was waiting for an opportunity to remove Fikry anyway. In any event, one result of his removal may be the emergence of the Amin brothers as co-chairmen of the Dar El Hilal board.

Meanwhile, commenting on Nasser's praise for press freedom, AL GOMHOURIA said: "Now that our press has become the property of all the people, it has become a true picture of public opinion and an exponent of all ideas and points of view. Our press should pride itself on being in the foremost of the means which have been liberated from all domination so that it should become something for the people and be in their service. The huge tool should not therefore be left in the hands of individuals or groups of individuals to use it for dominating public opinion; it should be the property of all, partly so that it should be expressive of public opinion and not of the opinion of a certain class, and partly so that its mission should be guiding the people to the path which achieves the interests of all citizens and not the interests of a certain class or a group of classes."

2. Comment on Tunisia

Naturally, the press was much preoccupied with Tunisia but little was said that could not have been anticipated. Interesting commentary was AL AKHBAR's of August 20: "Who is responsible for all the Tunisian blood that has been shed?" In addition to France, the UN, the NATO countries and particularly the United States and Britain were to blame. "The former (US) is to be held responsible for France's mistakes since she is able to deter her. By keeping silent she has become an accomplice." The article also blamed Western public opinion which it said could not support Tunisia because Tunisia was an African and Arab country.

3. Government Reorganization Backed

Government reorganization received heavy press coverage and naturally was strongly backed. AL GOMHOURIA voiced what seemed the official line on August 17: "The new reorganization of the UAR government achieves great progress in more than one field: first it consolidates the national unity and strengthens the merger between the two regions of the republic by the formation of one cabinet for the two regions; secondly it clearly defines responsibilities in implementing the work of the state so that they do not clash with one another or are not borne by more than one authority; thirdly it enables organizations under the public sector to play their part

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efficiently within the framework of the comprehensive reorganization."

For the Ambassador:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary

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Political	-	CCStrong, DScott, MSterner
Army	-	Major Tessieri
Air	-	Col. Stewart
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August 31, 1961

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POLITICAL WEEKA NO. 35

COM-2 AGA-2 LAB-2 TR-2 NSA-4

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1. UAR General to Command Supreme Joint African Command
2. Arab League Military Mission Completes Tour

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Shake-up of Provisional Algerian Government

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From Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Casablanca Heads of States in Cairo

King Hassan II, President Keita, and Al-Sayyed Ben Khedda Ben Youssef, new Prime Minister of the Provisional Algerian Government, arrived in Cairo, on August 28 for discussions with Nasser before proceeding to the non-aligned conference in Belgrade. The remaining two Casablanca heads of state did not show up: Nkrumah, vacationing in Yalta after his tour of Soviet Bloc countries, sent word that he was not sufficiently rested to attend the Cairo conference; Toure cancelled his trip to Cairo at the last minute because (according to the press reports which seem to have originated with Guinean Foreign Minister Beavogui now in Cairo) a crisis has developed over the Government take-over of Catholic schools in Guinea. With two heads of state absent, (Ghana and Guinea ~~are~~ represented by their Foreign Ministers) the meeting of the Political Committee of the African Charter became a meeting of Foreign Ministers, while the three heads of state and Ben Khedda held informal discussions. Few details about their discussions have been released; the press on August 30 said the Berlin question, disarmament, and the liquidation of colonialism had been taken up.

Meanwhile, the Political Committee on August 29 and 30 announced a number of decisions: the recommendations of the African Charter Cultural and Economic Committees were "noted"; the recommendations of the Joint African High Command, which met in Cairo during July, were approved; Idris al-Salawi, a Moroccan, was elected Secretary General of the Liaison Office of the African Charter group, with the liaison office to located in Bamako; Maj. Gen. Muhammad Fawzi (Egyptian) was named CinC of the Supreme Joint African Command; it was decided to hold the next meeting of the Political Committee at Bamako in September 1962. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: There is some speculation locally that Nkrumah's "fatigue" has been caused at least partly by his dislike of playing second fiddle to Nasser in an African gathering. Although we have no information to indicate that there is anything more behind Toure's sudden cancellation than what has publicly been stated, it is interesting that the Cairo press has been at pains to play up the Catholic-schools-crisis story in an apparent effort to erase any suspicion that a snub was intended. Whatever the real reasons are, the failure of Nkrumah and Toure to come to Cairo has undoubtedly been a disappointment to Nasser. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Nasser Has Conversation with Ambassador Badeau August 27

Ambassador Badeau had an hour-long conversation with Nasser on August 27. A principal purpose of the call was to present Nasser with the US position on a number of international issues, particularly Berlin, on the eve of Nasser's departure for Belgrade. Nasser said that while he would raise the Berlin question at Belgrade he would not advocate that the conference discuss the question in detail but only propose that the big powers negotiate a peaceful solution. The Ambassador also reviewed the current state of US-UAR relations, but this elicited little comment from the President. When

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the Ambassador raised the question of difficulties encountered in the USOM Civil Aviation project in Syria, Nasser launched into a long dissertation on his problems in amalgamating the Syrian and Egyptian regions into true unity. He stressed the necessity of a single Cairo-centered administration of the two regions and said that under this new arrangement the problems of Syrian USOM operations would disappear. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Nasser was cordial but not forthcoming on substantive matters. He made no attempt, however, to raise such questions as Bizerte, Congo, Cuba, nuclear testing, the refugee problem, or any aspect of US policy or US-UAR relations. (Embtel 396). (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Arab League Meeting Postponed

At the request of the U.A.R. the Arab League's semi-annual session, originally scheduled for September 9 in Casablanca, has been postponed to September 14, according to an announcement by the Secretariat. The delay has apparently been accorded to permit more time between the Belgrade Conference of non-aligned states and the Casablanca Conference, as well as to allow some delegates, such as UAR's Foreign Minister Fawzi, to proceed directly to New York after the Conference for the opening of the UN General Assembly on September 19. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Government to Move to Damascus February to May of Each Year

Nasser held his first meeting with his new Vice Presidents and Ministers on August 26. In his remarks to the group, Nasser said that the goals of the new governmental structure were first, the consolidation of unity between the two regions, and second, the putting into effect of socialism. Toward the first goal it had been decided that the Government would move to Damascus from February until May every year so that it could be in touch with the problems and peoples of both regions. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Referring briefly to this decision during his conversation with Ambassador Badeau, the President said he did not foresee that it would be necessary for the diplomatic missions in Cairo to make a wholesale move to Damascus each year. The Embassy's guess is that while the regime will make an effort to carry out the transfer in the first year, in subsequent years the practical difficulties and expense of moving to Damascus for such a lengthy period will tend to make the transfer operation bog down. (A-67 Aug 30) (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. PAG-Cairo Relations

The Cairo press has welcomed the formation of the new PAG government headed by Ben Khedda and noted that it was significant that Ben Khedda's first step was to fly to Cairo, "the base of the revolutionary struggle" (see Psychological). While this is misleading since the head of the PAG was scheduled to join the other Casablanca leaders in Cairo at this time anyway, it is interesting to note that the UAR press is eager to read into

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the policy of the new government a stronger orientation toward the UAR. Given the more militant composition of the new PAG government and its reported intention of stepping up the war against France, it seems likely that this reading may not be too inaccurate and that the present Casablanca gathering will give Ben Khedda an opportunity to have informal discussions with Nasser and other UAR leaders toward strengthening PAG-Cairo relations. (Embtel 399)
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

ARMY

1. UAR General to Command Supreme Joint African Command

The Political Committee of the Member States of the Casablanca Charter while in session on 29 August approved the appointment of MajGen Mohammed FAWZY, Commandant of the UAR Military Academy, as CINC of the Supreme Joint African Command. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: It is unknown whether General FAWZY will assume his new position in addition to his duties as Commandant of the Military Academy or as a full time assignment. No mention has been made by the UAR as to a replacement as head of the Military Academy. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Arab League Military Mission Completes Tour

On 29 August, the Arab League Military Mission (ALMM) returned to Cairo after visiting Morocco, Tunis, Libya, Sudan, Jordan and Lebanon in an effort to solicit Arab Forces to replace the UK in Kuwait. Dr. Sayed NOFAL, Asst SYG of the Arab League and spokesman for the Mission, stated (on his return) that all States visited had "expressed" their readiness to participate in the Arab Forces. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: This last statement of Dr. NOFAL is somewhat moderated from his previous statements in which he emphasized that all States visited had signed agreements. AL-AHRAM (29 Aug) published a statement that LIBYA and LEBANON would not contribute troops "for the time being" but would keep the subject under consideration. Yemen, which has indicated it would not send troops, apologized for not receiving the Mission. It is felt that the success of the Mission leaves much to be desired. Much will depend on what action the UAR will take, since Jordan's attitude remains unclear and evidence is that Tunisian and Sudanese participation will be limited to small token forces, leaving the burden on the UAR, Saudi Arabia, and possibly Morocco. (CONFIDENTIAL)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Shake-up of Provisional Algerian Government

While all papers carried news of the replacement of Ferhat Abbas by Ben Yousef Ben Khedda as prime minister of the provisional Algerian Government there has been comparatively little editorial comment so far. Al-Ahram on August 29 took the line that elevation of the new Prime Minister was

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"only natural" and stressed that he had long served the Algerian revolution. The paper found it "significant that the first duty undertaken by the prime minister is to fly to Cairo, the base of Arab revolutionary struggle, to meet his fellow revolutionaries who have successfully led their people in their battles for liberation and independence." Continuing, the paper said: "However, the reconstruction of the Algerian cabinet does not mean that we are against negotiations in principle. We call for peace and for settling international issues peacefully. But at the same time peace does not mean weakness, laxity or squandering our legitimate rights for which our blood has been shed. Cease-fire in Algeria must be on the basis of France's clear recognition of the integrity of the Algerian territory and people and their complete independence. Otherwise the fire will rage until the day comes in the near future when freedom and independence are achieved. What Nasser said the other day on American television is then true -- principles and ideas, not individuals, have the true impact."

One dope story accompanying the Algerian reshuffle was a UPI article from Washington carried in AL GOMHOURIA of the same day. It reported US officials as thinking the new cabinet "more left leaning than the previous one", as feeling that the ousting of the "moderate" Ferhat Abbas meant a more hard-line FLN.

For the Ambassador:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

September 7, 1961

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5/02-4 D-10 SEP. -7 1961

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	9/12			100-16	100-2	100-10	100-35	100-20

SUBJECT:

POLITICAL WEEKA NO. 36

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2. Arab League Meeting

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1. Reaction to Soviet Nuclear Test Announcement
2. Belgrade Conference
3. US-UAR Purchase Loan Agreement
4. East German Press Conference

Action Assigned to *Walters*
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 Date of Action *15 Sept 1961*
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From Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Role of Serraj in Reorganized UAR Government

Speculation continues as to the role of Syrian "strong man" Abdul Hamid Serraj in the reorganized UAR Government. As Vice President for Internal Affairs he was presumably to shift his offices from Damascus to Cairo. In fact, some reports suggested that Nasser considered that his main job would be to remain in Cairo. However, after coming to Cairo for the first meeting of the new Cabinet on August 26, Serraj returned to Damascus on August 31. According to the press he was to return to Cairo in two days. Nevertheless, on September 6 the press reported that he was still in Damascus. While there may be no particular significance in Serraj's return to Damascus it does keep alive speculation as to whether he will in fact allow himself to be separated from the Syrian scene. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Arab League Meeting

According to sources in the Arab League, no change is contemplated in the date and venue of the next regular session of the League Council to be held in Casablanca on September 14. In answer to a Jordanian request, however, the level of participants has been altered from Foreign Ministers to that of Ambassadors and permanent delegates to the League.

Comment: While the Jordanian request may be the ostensible reason for the change, other Foreign Ministers, such as U.A.R.'s Fawzi, may not have liked the idea of the Casablanca Conference on such close proximity to Belgrade and the opening of the UNGA.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Reaction to Soviet Nuclear Test Announcement

Initial UAR press reaction to Soviet resumption of nuclear testing was relatively mild and somewhat tentative, suggested need for negotiation and counseled caution. But as the response from Belgrade conferees became more outspoken, the press adopted a similarly stiff attitude. By September 5, UAR editorials were vehemently condemning the Soviet action. Said Al Akhbar: "At the very time the Belgrade conference was held, Moscow made public its desire to unleash the horrible nuclear experiments race...In his address before the conference, President Nasser put up the red flag to warn against the danger caused by the Soviet measure...Those who resume nuclear testing do not stand for peace. They stand for imperialistic bloodsucking maneuvers". The ordinarily anti-Western Abdul Aziz Fahmi of Gomhouria said: "It might please the West to know that the Soviet resumption decision gave a great shock to many people and that timing this decision to coincide with the beginning of the Belgrade conference caused wide dissatisfaction." Again, in Al Gomhouria: "It (the Soviet decision) does not represent the search

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for peaceful solutions that Khrushchev always pretends to seek...Khrushchev always says that he does not threaten the use of force unless he has exhausted all peaceful means. How can one then explain this decision which coincided with the most important human attempt to settle peace--namely, the Belgrade conference?" (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Belgrade Conference

The Conference of non-aligned nations monopolized all UAR media during the last week. Front pages of newspapers were filled with pictures, news stories and features on the conference, and it was the prime topic on both radio and television news shows. Editorial comment was abundant, but predictable, consisting mainly of reiteration of the thesis that the conference is a potent force for world peace.

3. US-UAR Purchase Loan Agreement

All major Arabic dailies carried an almost verbatim text of the USIS release on the latest PL 480 wheat flour sale, totaling \$64.1 million. It is worthy of note that the stories explained that some 65 per cent of the sole proceeds will be loaned back to the UAR and 15 per cent will be available for outright grants to the UAR for economic development. Similar stories in the past have sometimes overlooked these provisions. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. East German Press Conference

The East German consul general in Cairo last week gave a press conference and cocktail party at which the East's position on Berlin was to be explained. Several persons from each of the Cairo dailies and weeklies were invited, but only two newsmen appeared, according to one of those who attended. (UNCLASSIFIED)

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary

Contributors:

Political - CCStrong; DScott
Psychological - RHelgerson

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3. Arab League to Meet in Cairo Instead of Rabat

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2. Code of Ethics
3. Tourism Offices in the US

Assigned to Wilson
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From Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Nasser Back from Belgrade - Meets with Cabinet

President Nasser returned to Cairo from Belgrade on September 7. So far he has not made any public report on the Belgrade Conference, but on September 11 he held a long meeting with his new cabinet during which, according to the press, he gave his assembled Vice Presidents and Ministers a report on the Conference. The rest of the session with his cabinet was apparently devoted to economic matters. Nasser was reported as having instructed his ministers to submit more frequent and detailed progress reports on their individual parts in carrying out the UAR's development plans. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. PCC Mission

Dr. Joseph Johnson, Special Representative of UN's Palestine Conciliation Commission (PCC), visited Cairo September 10-13. He called on Foreign Minister Fawzi and Arab League Secretary General Hassouna and heard views on the Palestine refugee question. He was not received by Nasser. En route to Jerusalem he visited refugee camps in Giza. (UNCLASSIFIED)

In conversation with Ambassador Badeau and Embassy officers Johnson reported that while he was well received, little new emerged from his discussions here. The only points of some interest were that Fawzi implied that: (a) only if Johnson could have brought new elements from Israel would his visit have been of real interest to Nasser; (b) that the custodian proposal would again be raised by the Arabs at the UNGA this year; and (c) the UAR disliked the composition of the PCC. (Embtel 500) (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Arab League to Meet in Cairo Instead of Rabat

The Arab League has decided to cancel its scheduled meeting in Rabat at the Foreign Ministers level and hold instead a meeting in Cairo at the Ambassadorial level. There will be no change in the date of the meeting, September 14. According to press accounts the change in venue and level of representation was requested by the UAR and Saudi Arabia, whose Foreign Ministers are busy preparing for the UN General Assembly. In addition the Jordanian Government had reportedly asked earlier that the meeting be cancelled altogether because of elections being held in Jordan. The UAR will be represented at the Cairo meeting by its regular delegate Muhammad al-Zayyat. (UNCLASSIFIED)

ARMY

Arab Security Force for Kuwait

All Cairo papers report the imminent departure of various military contingents which are to constitute the Arab League's Security Force in Kuwait. The bulk of the Arab Forces reportedly will arrive in Kuwait on 14 and 15 Sept.

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From Cairo

Aircraft of the various Arab Air Forces will airlift the participating troops, supplemented with planes from certain unnamed Arab Airlines.

The Saudi elements of the Force are said to have already started to arrive in Kuwait. The Jordanian Regiment is scheduled to fly from Amman to Kuwait on 15 September. The Sudanese unit reportedly left for Kuwait on September 12. UAR Military experts and technical elements are also reported as moving to Kuwait during this period - to be followed by the Moroccans.

A Staff echelon has been formed for the Force from the various units taking part. LtGeneral Abdallah Issa of Saudi Arabia is to be Commander, LtGeneral Khaled al-Sahn of Jordan Deputy Commander, and Col. Kamal al-Dabbagh, a Saudi, Chief of Staff. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: It is not clear what type of unit or units is meant by "UAR military and technical experts", but the phrase does not appear to conform with previous reports that the UAR was going to send a sizeable contingent of combat troops to Kuwait.

There is no local indication as to when the Arab Security Forces will be well enough organized and in sufficient strength to actually permit withdrawal of the British troops from Kuwait. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Return of the Amins (Cont'd.)

AL AHRAH this week again published pictures of Mustafa and Ali Amin, former proprietors of AL AKHBAR, with an accompanying story announcing that as of September 14 the brothers would assume their new duties with Al-Musawwar, the largest magazine in the UAR.

Comment: It appears that the way is being paved systematically for the return of the Amins to positions of influence in the press. They were appointed to the Board of Directors of Dar Al Hilal Publishing House, which controls Al-Musawwar, on August 8, and only ten days later, Fikri Abaza was removed from editorship of Musawwar after having served 25 years in that capacity. The way is now clear for the Amins to take over the magazine, and exert considerable influence on Dar Al Hilal's lesser publications. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Code of Ethics

All representatives of UAR media will be required next month to take an oath of allegiance to a journalistic code of ethics. The code, in essence, requires that media representatives be loyal to their country and President Nasser.

Comment: The provisions of the code are so broad as to be meaningless as any sort of guide to the individual journalist. Its only real value can be as a means of formalizing the control now exercised by the Government over UAR journalists. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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From Cairo

3. Tourism Offices in the US

The UAR has announced plans for opening six new "tourism" offices in the United States, the offices to be located in the Midwest, the South and the West Coast. In addition to their conventional promotional functions, the offices will have representatives of UAR radio and TV who will attempt to sponsor program exchanges with stations in their areas. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary

Contributors:

Political - CCStrong; MSterner
Psychological - RWHelgerson
Military - Lt.Colonel Joy

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SUBJECT:		POLITICAL WEEKA NO. 38			
		AGR-2 COM-2 LAB-2 TR-2			

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2. Soviet Resumption of Nuclear Tests
3. UN in the Congo
4. Al Musawwar Sell-Out

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From Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Arab League Meeting Ends

The Arab League Council met at the Ambassadorial level in Cairo September 14 - 19. From a preliminary look at the Council's resolutions, summarized in the September 20 press, it appears that the session was an unusually routine one, with no major decisions made, and discussion of many problems deferred. The Council is reported to have decided that the Palestine Offices in member states should be strengthened, and to have approved the proposed 1961-62 plan "to counteract aggressive Zionist tendencies." In a reapportionment of the members' contributions toward meeting the League's expenses, it was agreed that Kuwait should pay 13% of the budget. The petition of the Imam of Oman to join the League was referred to the Council's next session, with the Saudis, however, registering a minority opinion that they favored immediate admission of Oman. On Algeria, and on "Israel's aggressive activities in the African countries", specific resolutions were passed expressing the usual Arab attitude. On the international questions which are on the agenda of the present UNGA session, the Council did not pass individual resolutions but merely said it supported the position which the Belgrade Conference had taken on these questions. Arab delegations at the UNGA were called on to coordinate their positions between themselves on the basis of the Belgrade resolutions, although on this point Libya made a reservation, noting that it had not participated in the Belgrade Conference. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. UAR View of Disturbances in Northern Iraq

The UAR expressed its view of the disturbances in northern Iraq in the form of a front-page article in government-controlled Al-Ahram newspaper on September 19. The UAR, said the statement, is opposed to any secessionist movement in any Arab land. Although the UAR considers Qassem personally and fully responsible for nurturing separatist tendencies for the purpose of achieving an internal balance of forces which enable him to control Iraq, the UAR nevertheless supports every effort toward maintaining the national unity of Iraq. The troubles in northern Iraq, the statement goes on, "reflect the style of Communist complicity through manipulation of Al-Barzani." The statement ends with, "there is also information asserting that the British IPC is not aloof from events taking place in the area." (A-86) (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Reaction to Hammarskjöld Death

While expressing deep shock and dismay at the death of Hammarskjöld, UAR media could not refrain from linking the tragedy with the death of Lumumba and machinations of the imperialists. In this the press was taking its cue from an official statement by Minister of State Hatem, which blamed the imperialists for creating the circumstances which led to Hammarskjöld's death. Cairo press

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paid high tribute to Hammarskjöld as a dedicated and honorable public servant. Said GOMHOURIA editor Ibrahim Nawar: "Hammarskjöld's death shocked the entire world, both his friends and enemies...His honorable stands were more (numerous) than the stands on which the UAR disagreed with him. Despite the differences in our views, we never disrespected or underestimated Hammarskjöld's personal views as well as his struggle for world peace. The crime (which the imperialists and their stooges are accused of committing) is not against Hammarskjöld personally. It is against justice, honor freedom and conscience. If we can ever forget his stands, we shall never forget the one condemning the tripartite aggression." GOMHOURIA columnist Nashashibi commented: "Hammarskjöld fell in the same central African jungle where Lumumba lost his life. Lumumba's very enemy (Tshombe) who had served as an imperialist tool for undermining the Congo's unity, freedom and independence has struck Hammarskjöld." Numerous other editorial comments followed substantially the same pattern. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Soviet Resumption of Nuclear Tests

Kamal Zuheiri, assistant editor of ROSE EL YOUSSEF, was the most outspoken critic of the Soviet decision to resume nuclear tests. Zuheiri brushed aside the theory that Russia made the move to impress the Belgrade conferees, said: "The step implied something else; that the USSR can behave unilaterally on a world-wide scale. In other words, it can ignore the stands the non-aligned nations take...the policies of both blocs have changed according to their world situations to the effect that the West is getting closer to the non-aligned nations and the East is disagreeing with them." (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. UN in the Congo

UAR media gave full support to action of the UN in Katanga, saying in substance; whatever mistakes the UN may have made in the Congo in the past, it is now acting properly and deserves the full support of all member nations. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Al Musawwar Sell-Out

At a time when UAR periodicals are struggling to maintain their circulation, the first issue of Al Musawwar edited by Mustafa and Ali Amin--former owners of AL AKHBAR --sold out completely within a few hours of its appearance on the newsstands.

There is no evidence that the Amin brothers bought up the issue themselves. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary

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Psychological - RHelgerson

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SUBJECT: POLITICAL WEEKA NO. 40					

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2. Question of US Recognition of New Syrian Government

ARMY

Coup by UAR First Army (Syria)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Syrian Coup

Action Assigned to Kullom
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From Cairo

POLITICAL

1. Coup d'Etat in Syria

Before dawn on September 28 Syrian military units surrounded the military command headquarters in Damascus and took over the Damascus radio station. Shortly afterwards 4 broadcasts on Radio Damascus announced that the "Supreme Arab Military Command of Armed Forces" was in full control, that Syria had been freed from oppressive control, that borders were closed, and that Egyptians and foreigners would be well treated. Marshal Amer and other Egyptian officers in Syria had been taken into custody during the early hours of the morning.

A radio address by Nasser at 9 a.m. broke the news in Egypt. In a voice alternately grieved and bitter he said the news that he had to convey was far worse than the tripartite "aggression" in 1956 because this was a blow delivered by an Arab hand at the Arab nation. He described the rebellion as having been carried out by "a small group of officers at Qatana army camp", unsupported by the people. He said he had ordered the First Army to move immediately to Damascus to crush the revolt.

During the course of the morning a series of communiques was being issued over Damascus Radio indicating the rebels had consolidated their grip on the country. It became apparent that the First Army had not moved to crush the rebellion. Communique #9 said that the Supreme Arab Revolutionary Command (SARC) had reached an agreement with Marshal Amer that "saboteurs and exploiters" would be eliminated from Syrian Army ranks and other abuses would be corrected. Damascus radio then broke off the flow of communiques from SARC for about 6 hours, and it was widely speculated in Cairo that the rebellion was over. At about 5 p.m., however, communique #10 was broadcast saying that Marshal Amer had backed out of his agreement and that the rebellion was on again. In a second radio address later on the 28th Nasser said Amer (who had been in radio contact with Cairo) had rejected the rebels' demands because "we cannot bargain over our Arabism and our nationalism." Amer and Lt. Gen. Faisal flew back to Cairo that evening.

For a while it appeared that enough of the country had remained loyal to Nasser to enable him to try for a comeback. Aleppo radio continued to broadcast pro-Nasser statements until late in the evening of the 28th when pro-rebel forces seized it, and Latakia appears to have been slow in going over to the rebellion. Evidently on the assumption that northern Syria was still for him, Nasser ordered that a 120-man paratrooper contingent be dropped near Latakia, in the meantime readying a larger force which would presumably be sent by sea (see Military). When the 120-man advance contingent encountered resistance, however, it surrendered (as Damascus Radio put it) "bloodlessly!" Nasser explained the incident in a speech on September 29 when he tacitly conceded victory, at least for the moment, to the rebels. The 120 paratroopers had been ordered to surrender, and a larger force of 2000

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paratroopers as well as naval forces had been recalled, when it became apparent the rebellion could not be reversed without "one Arab shedding another Arab's blood". The achievement of Arab unity, said Nasser, could never be a military operation.

On September 29 SARC announced that a new government had been named in Syria. The eleven-man cabinet is headed by Ma'moun Kuzbari, former associate of Adib Shishakli and leader of Shishakli's rightist pro-West state party, the Arab Liberation Movement. The other members of the cabinet are professional men, with no really prominent political figure among them. All are from upper or upper-middle class families. Leftists are conspicuously absent, whether Communist, Baathist, or Serrajist. Although less is known about the officers who actually carried out the coup (for names see Military) it is fairly certain they are a conservative anti-Egyptian military group, supported if not financed by big Syrian landowners and merchants, particularly in the Damascus area.

During the next few days (Sept. 30-Oct. 2) Nasser prepared and kept in readiness large military forces, presumably so that he could move immediately to support any uprising that might occur in Syria. Although his propaganda campaign has attempted to describe all of Syria as in a state of seething popular discontent, pro-Nasser demonstrations seem to have been few in number and easily contained by the Syrian army. While keeping an invasion force in readiness, Nasser meanwhile in speeches and press campaign established the propaganda rationale for his longer-range policy. The Syrian coup was engineered by Arab reactionaries backed by the foreign enemies of Arab nationalism; the Syrian people would eventually throw off this yoke; in the meantime these Arab nationalists should rise above this minor setback and work undaunted toward the goal of Arab unity; having learned its lesson not to trust "reactionaries" and "capitalists" amidst its ranks, Arab nationalism would embark on a new "surge forward" to eliminate these elements once and for all. (See Psychological) (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Question of US Recognition of New Syrian Government

The Embassy has recommended (Embtels 611 and 622) that the US wait a week or ten days to see whether new Syrian government demonstrates its ability to retain effective control of the country. Underlining the advisability of a "go slow" policy have been reports of UAR military preparations, presumably for a movement to Syria. While the Embassy doubts that Nasser will undertake military action unless it comes in the guise of responding to an appeal from the Syrian people, this possibility cannot be ruled out.

Once effective control has been demonstrated, the Embassy has suggested that initial recognition be de facto, which could be explained to UAR as necessary for day-to-day dealings with the Syrian authorities re US interests in Syria, and to the Syrian Government as helping counter the charge that it is an "imperialist tool" by showing some initial hesitation on the part of

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the US. The Embassy has also suggested that it would be preferable, particularly in the case of de jure recognition, if our recognition could follow that of several Arab and other non-Western-oriented states, and if that should not be possible, that we should confer with friendly states to the end that when we take action we not be the only major Western country to do so.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Coup by UAR First Army (Syria)

At approximately 0600 on the 28th of September, a UAR FIRST Army unit from QATANAH moved on DAMASCUS radio station and surrounded FIRST Army Headquarters and a coup was born. President NASSER made an official announcement of these facts over Radio Cairo at about 0900 the same day. By 29 September, military reaction in Cairo was becoming apparent and began to pick up momentum. Afternoon 29 September Nasser said in a speech that 120 men of a 2000 paratroop force had landed near Lattakia and been captured. According to Nasser, the remainder of this force, as well as naval units, were recalled. From 29 September through 2 October sightings of troop movements, stocking of supplies and concentration of available transport aircraft increased at a rapid rate. During this period the desert road between Cairo and Alexandria was closed during hours of darkness. Results of this activity began to appear in Alexandria where reports of extensive concentration and loading of some military personnel and equipment, i.e., troops, tanks, armored personnel carriers, trucks and logistical supplies were taking place. In the interim the coup group, Supreme Arab Revolutionary Command (SARC), was consolidating its positions. Initially, it was unknown whether the coup was conducted by a small dissident group or whether the entire UAR First Army was in support. As time passed, it became evident that the latter was true, if not actively then at least passively. On 29 September, President Nasser, as Supreme Commander of the UAR Armed Forces, announced that he had relieved six rebel officers of authority and dismissed them from the service. These officers constituted the SARC and were identified by name: BG Abdul Ghani DUHMAN, CO, DAMASCUS Garrison; BG Muwaffak OSAFI; LtCol. Abdul Kerim al-NAHLAWI, reportedly member of FM Abdul Hakim AMER staff, SYRIA; LtCol. Heidar al-KUZEARI, CO Desert Guard; LtCol. Nassib HINDI; LtCol. Hashim Abdul RABEU.

At 1800 on 3 October three of the UAR Merchant ships in Alexandria were reportedly off-loading their military cargoes. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Coup demonstrated that although considerable integration and "unification" had taken place in the UAR armed Forces, the First Army remained Syrian and resented decrease in pay, domination and control by Egyptian officers as well as involuntary service in Egypt. Although, Nasser attempted a token military action against the insurrection at no time did such an operation seem feasible or practical without internal support from Syria either

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civilian or military. The abortive initial military action by Nasser, i.e., night of 28 September, indicated miscalculation by Egyptian Command of actual conditions within the First Army and Syria as a whole. However, the Egyptian Command's ability to prepare and load a sizeable invasion force from sea movement in three days (29 Sept. - 2 Oct.) has proved to be significant, demonstrating a here-to-fore untested capability.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Syrian Coup

In the Cairo press, the Syrian coup eclipsed all other news stories this week. Newspapers carried texts of President Nasser's speeches, lengthy news stories and editorial comment, as well as long lists of organizations which had cabled their support to the President. Similarly, radio and television were dominated by the story. Regular television programs were scrapped to make way for patriotic shows describing the spiritual strength of the UAR, its military might and its position in the Syrian crisis.

Three major themes recur in media comment on the coup: the revolt was a blow at Arab unity; it was aided and abetted by capitalistic, imperialistic forces, and, the UAR will emerge from the crisis as a stronger nation when the Syrian people have overthrown the traitorous leaders of the rebellion. Said AL QOMHOURIA: "The Syrians, who have invariably been exposed to conspiracies but have always succeeded by their vigilance and firmness, in shattering plots and deceptive methods, should be in a position to shatter this new conspiracy hatched by foreign forces aimed at tearing up the integral structure of the fatherland." Ahmed Baha el Din of AL AKHBAR wrote: "...stumbling stones are always found on the way of strong waves, but this conspiracy is the most dangerous ever met by the Arab people in the years of their great victories." Fikri Abaza, former editor of AL MUSAWWAR, now writing in AL AHRAM, said, "...they (the mutineers) are either acting for the account of imperialism or may have been paid by feudal lords to deprive the masses for the benefit of the representatives of vested interests..."

Other press comment followed the same lines, essentially repeating and expanding upon the themes developed by President Nasser in the three speeches he has made since the uprising. (see Political)

News columns and radio news shows are being used to create the impression that Syria is now in a state of revolt against the coup leaders. Cairo radio is devoting 15 minute news shows to descriptions of the so-called uprisings against the new Syrian regime, naming villages where pitched battle are allegedly in progress between the peasants and soldiers of the rebellion, describing mass demonstrations against the rebels in larger cities. Newspaper stories are somewhat more restrained, but follow the same line.

Comment: While heavy-handed by some standards, UAR propaganda on current

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Syrian unrest is probably as good as it could be under the circumstances. An uncritical listener is not likely to notice, for example, that a clash or demonstration reported as fresh news on a given day is actually a recap of an incident reported two or three days earlier. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

For the Ambassador:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary

Contributors:

Political - CCStrong; MStern
Military - Lt. Col. Joy
Psychological - RWHelgerson

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TO :	THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.				
REF :			OCT. 12 1961 AF-5		
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POLITICAL

1. Nasser Acknowledges Success of Syrian Coup

In a radio address on October 5 Nasser tacitly acknowledged the successful consolidation of an independent Syria by announcing that the UAR would not attempt to impose a political and diplomatic blockade on Syria. The UAR would not try to block Syria's admission to the UN or the Arab League. However, the UAR itself would not recognize any Syrian government until the people of Syria had freely expressed their support for it.

A major portion of the speech was devoted to a review of the economic and social benefits which had accrued to the Syrian people under unity. Nasser vigorously denied the Syrian regime's charge that Egypt had used the merger with Syria to benefit itself economically, and he called for the creation of an Arab League committee to confirm the falseness specifically of four of the Syrian regime's allegations along these lines. At the end of the speech Nasser said in sombre but firm tones that the union between Syria and Egypt had been an experiment from which the deeper impulse toward Arab unity would derive a lesson. He had not lost his faith in the ultimate attainment of that unity. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The speech had a favorable impact here. Most Egyptians felt an immediate sense of relief that Nasser had not tried to bluster his way through and by so doing possibly involve Egypt in a bloody war. Even many of Nasser's critics admitted the speech was a statesmanlike and dignified performance, and our impression is that through it Nasser has probably salvaged about as much of his prestige as he could under the circumstances. It remains to be seen, of course, how far and how long the image of Nasser as a noble and generous Arab, as opposed to the fighting and invincible Arab, can carry him. The respect and sympathy which many feel for him now for having risen with dignity above the defeat he has just suffered is not likely in the long run to provide as substantial a basis for his prestige as his former reputation of being an aggressive and masterful political gambler who usually managed to be holding the winning cards in his hand. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. US Recognition of Syrian Government

US extended recognition of the Kuzbari government in Syria on October 10. The act was greeted calmly in Cairo. Nasser's October 5 speech had been interpreted by diplomatic missions in Cairo as a green light to recognition, and in a meeting with Ambassador Badeau on October 7 Nasser said that since the Soviet Union had recognized Syria (October 7), he saw no reason why the US should not also extend recognition. The Cairo press has deliberately played US recognition down, and there has been no editorial comment on the subject. Recognition by the USSR and several of her satellites was similarly played down. (UNCLASSIFIED) (CONFIDENTIAL)

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3. Arab League Investigating Committee

In Nasser's radio address of October 5, he rejected flatly Syrian allegations that the Southern Region of the UAR had profited at the expense of Syria and asked that a committee be formed under Arab League supervision to prove that the contrary was true. League officials obediently began the process of forming a commission, but seemingly without any clear understanding among themselves of whether the committee should be made up of representatives of each member State (with the exception of Jordan), or whether a group of economists should be selected, presumably with an eye to their impartiality. The staff of the League's political section was also divided on the question of whether or not Syria should be admitted as a member prior to the investigation or later, although the Syrians themselves seem to take the position that Syria simply resumes its former membership immediately, without admission formalities. To date, there has been no indication of when or in what manner the committee will undertake its investigation. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

4. Syrian Officials in Cairo Resign

According to the press on October 9, fifteen high-ranking Syrian officials in Cairo, including Vice President Kahhala and Minister of State Farid Zain al-Din, have submitted their resignations. Some of this group reportedly plan to return to Syria, others to remain in Egypt.

Meanwhile reports have also been appearing in the press indicating that lower echelon Syrian officials are being repatriated. 693 Syrians, including a number of military personnel and diplomats, reportedly left Cairo for Port Said on October 6 in order to board a ship which would take them back to Syria. It has also been announced that UAR scholarships to Syrians studying in Egyptian schools and universities would be continued. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: In line with the tone set in Nasser's October 5 speech, the UAR appears to be making every effort to treat the Syrians who were caught by the coup in Cairo generously. Press has contrasted this treatment with alleged harsh treatment accorded Egyptians who were repatriated to Egypt by the Syrian regime. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. British Evacuate Kuwait

The last group of British troops, less an Administrative Detachment, is reported by the Cairo press as having left Kuwait on 10 October according to the Kuwaiti representative at the Arab League who has reportedly notified the Secretary General of the League of this fact. It was stated that the Kuwaiti government has bought the larger part of heavy military equipment and a number of Hawk-Hunter fighters from the British forces.

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Comment: There was no suggestion as to what the Kuwaiti Government intends to do with the military equipment, if in fact it has been purchased, since there is no Kuwaiti army. It is possible that the British are leaving their equipment in Kuwait as a stockpile in case they are called back. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Israeli Maneuvers on UAR Border

The Cairo press, quoting a Tel-Aviv wire story, reports that large scale Israeli maneuvers have been started near the Egyptian border. In editorial comment, it is alleged that the real reason for holding the maneuvers on the UAR border is the recent secessionist movement in the Northern Region which has reassured Israel about the Syrian and Jordanian borders.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. UAR Media Continues Attack

UAR media this week shifted--without breaking stride--from the line that the new Syrian regime was being shaken by pro-Nasser demonstrations and riots to the theme that the new government is now confused and divided, with no clear lines of authority. On October 9, Al Ahram bannerlined reports on the Syrian confusion, listing contradictory statements by regime leaders on activities of political parties, maintenance of agrarian reform law and the role of the army in the Syrian government. Said Al Akhbar on October 10: "They (Syrian leaders) appear in their true colors as elements opposed to one another." Al Gomhouria prophesied a quick end for the Syrian government: "The Damascus clique will certainly not wait long before meeting its sealed fate."

Comment: While Egyptian media performed its propaganda role rather well while the Syrian issue was still in doubt, its continued attacks on the regime and reportage of non-existent incidents has gone far to discredit it in the Arab world. Travelers returning from Beirut--including an American officer--describe the ill-concealed glee of Lebanese who listened to the Voice of the Arabs radio reporting massive pro-Nasser demonstrations in Beirut although nothing of the sort occurred until several hours afterwards. Similarly, Cairo radio described Damascus as an armed camp with frequent bloody clashes on the very day foreign newsmen were admitted to the city and found the city quiet, with some armor drawn up in strategic places. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Foreign Press Censorship

During the Syrian crisis, there was a virtual ban on foreign newspapers in Egypt. The New York Herald Tribune of September 30 and 31, October 1, 3 and 5 were censored as were the New York Times issues of September 29 and 31, and October 1 and 2. Time of last week was banned because of the article headed, "End of a Myth."

3. Cairo Press Softens Line on U.S.

Cairo press has in recent days exhibited a measure of restraint in its treatment of the United States, in that it has refrained from open attacks on

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the U.S., and in at least one case has printed a story containing what could be construed as friendly comment. A story on Supply Minister Stino's visit to the U.S. quoted the Minister as saying the high esteem in which U.S. officials hold President Nasser made his negotiations in the states more profitable. The U.S. recognition of Syria was noted without the unfavorable comment which might have been expected, and the U.S. is not now being blamed for the success of the Syrian coup. Four or five other stories on U.S. activities in the U.A.R. were carried, the most important of which described a meeting between Ambassador Badeau and Sarwat Okasha, Minister of Culture and National Guidance. Of late, press accounts of US-UAR PL-480 agreements have been describing more fully the provision of the agreement which specifies that a sizeable portion of the commodity purchase price is to be loaned to the UAR for development purposes. The U.A.R. still chooses not to acknowledge publicly the fact that the U.S. pays the not inconsiderable ocean transportation costs on PL-480 products exported to the U.A.R.

For the Ambassador:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary

Contributors:

Political	-	DScott; MSterner
Military	-	Lt. Col. Joy
Psychological	-	RWHelgerson

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TO :	THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.	DESP. NO.	DATE		
REF :			OCT. 19 1961		
67 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION REC'D	DEPT. IN OTHER	Rm R-7 Rep-1 1CA-11 CU-5 NEA-4 AF-5 ZO-4 10/23 Rm-7 AAR-2 LAB-2 TR-2 PRM-3.5 NAVY-20 AIR-15 NSR-4 OSD-2 CIA-16 NSIA-11		
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5. Tunisian Ambassador Arrives

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2. Provisions of Military Service Law Revised

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1. Syria

Action Assigned to 1/20/61
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POLITICAL

1. Nasser Calls for Renewed Revolutionary Effort

In unusually quiet, almost muted tones, Nasser on October 16 made an hour-long address to the nation, redefining the goals of the revolution and emphasizing that, in the aftermath of the Syrian coup, there would be no deviation from the socialist path, and that, to the contrary, even greater efforts on the part of the people and the government must be exerted to reach the socialist goal and social liberty. While no new laws or revolutionary measures are needed, he said that action must be taken to put the present laws into full effect. Stressing the Syrian coup had brought to light past mistakes Nasser made the following points: 1.) reactionaries had revealed themselves to be linked with imperialism, which, having abandoned bases and pacts, now uses "safes and palaces of millionaires"; 2.) the National Union had been paralyzed by infiltrating reactionaries; it now must have a broad base set firmly in the people; 3.) machinery of government required a complete overhaul to make it more responsive to the needs of the people; 4.) opportunists and reactionaries, with their egoism and selfishness, their struggle for influence, must be weeded out. (UNCLASSIFIED)

The President's remarks clearly presaged a government shake-up; news of an impending cabinet reshuffle was announced October 18 and reports of tightened police action against the wealthy and against "opportunists" have already begun to reach the Embassy. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. Government Issues Series of "Popular" Decrees

In a move which obviously seems designed to take the UAR citizen's mind off the loss of Syria, the government has been announcing during the past week a series of measures which hold forth the promise of financial advantages for various segments of the population. On October 9 the press announced that university fees would be cut in half; two days later this measure was extended to include all private (but not foreign) schools. Other measures included (a) increase in salaries and allowances for Government employees (but not to go into effect until July 1962) (b) draft decree exempting fellaheen who own less than 5 acres from any arrears in rent for the years 1952-53 (c) announcement that a new price tariff for cheap cloth would be issued shortly. In addition to these steps, the press has been giving renewed publicity to previous measures, such as the distribution of land confiscated last July to poor fellaheen.

Comments: Interesting to note all of these new measures are to go into effect in the future. This is a good example of the government's technique of getting double propaganda impact for the same measure-future decrees are announced now, exciting keen anticipation among the classes affected, and these same measures will undoubtedly be given another major propaganda play when they finally come into effect.

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3. UAR Rejects Syrian Unity Plan

Through its controlled press, the UAR bluntly rejected the new Syrian government's call for Arab unity as an imperialist-inspired plan not worth serious consideration. The plan was described as similar to previous offerings by the imperialists such as the fertile crescent scheme, King Abdullah's Greater Syria, and the Hashemite Union of 1958. (Embtel 688). (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Assistant Secretary Talbot Visits Cairo

Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Talbot visited Cairo October 16 - 18. The Assistant Secretary had thorough discussions with Ambassador Badeau and Embassy officers, paid courtesy calls on Deputy Foreign Minister Z. Sabri and the head of the North American department of the Foreign Ministry, and had a meeting with Nasser confidant Hasanain Haikal. Unfortunately efforts to arrange meetings with several ministers were unsuccessful, probably because a cabinet reorganization was underway at the time. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

5. Tunisian Ambassador Arrives

The newly designated Tunisian Ambassador, Ahmed al-Mestiry, arrived in Cairo on October 15 and subsequently presented a copy of his credentials to the Deputy Foreign Minister. Reopening of the Tunisian Embassy will mark the end of the break in diplomatic relations that began in October 1958. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. GUAR Request Withdrawal UAR Troops from Kuwait

During past week, the UAR submitted a request to the Arab League to withdraw UAR forces from Kuwait. No reasons were given. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Reports of the number of troops involved vary from 130 to 153. The latter figure is believed to be more accurate. These troops are reportedly logistical "experts" and signal personnel. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Provisions of Military Service Law Revised

Press report states that it has been decided to revise a number of the provisions of the military service law. The revision will provide for postponing or exempting certain persons from military service. A military and national service card will be issued to each citizen upon reaching military service age. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Editorial in Al-Ahram, October 19, 1958, states that the people last

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PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Syria

The press continued to treat Syrian independence as neither final nor representative of the true feelings of the Syrian people. Editorials, columns and even news stories continued to find reactionary treachery and imperialist chicanery behind the Syrian secession from the United Arab Republic. Syrian big business opposition to last summer's economic decrees and Syria's own proposals for Arab unity came in for especially heavy attack. Following quotes are typical but by no means exhaustive:

Nashashibi in Gomhouria, October 12: "Those who have destroyed unity never can be its advocates, and those who have repudiated the major Arab aim never can protect it."

Mohamed Ouda in Gomhouria, October 12: "All that has happened in Damascus as well as all that is being engineered against Cairo, can be attributed to only one cause, namely, the socialist legislation issued by the United Arab Republic."

Editorial in Gomhouria, October 12: "Truth has only one face while treachery has a thousand faces for it can put on the mask that suits circumstances. Secessionists therefore can be supporters of unity and advocates of nationalism when they wish; traitors can claim they are principled; and agents of imperialism can pretend to be patriotic."

Editorial in Akhbar, October 12: "The old imperialist projects have begun to reappear since the secessionist movement was staged in Syria. Ostensibly these projects aim at a kind of unity, but in fact they place member states of a federation in the service of imperialism."

Editorial in Ahram, October 15: "The insurrection has exposed itself as a counter-reaction to the progressive and liberating Arab revolution."

Editorial in Gomhouria, October 16: "The sole explanation for Israel's jubilant attitudes toward this new plan (Syrian proposal for Arab unity) is that it is fully convinced of its fictitious character and of its futility as a factor bringing about real Arab union."

2. Nasser's Latest Speech

The President's 75-minute speech of October 16 evoked predictable editorial support:

Editorial in Gomhouria, October 17: "As a result of determined efforts the people will make, the nation with all its elements and all its leadership may be in position to engage in the battle to build up the socialist nation, the battle for the future of the socialist fatherland."

Editorial in Akhbar, October 17: "In his statement to the people last

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night, President Nasser was, as usual, realistic and frank. He made no attempt to hide mistakes or to minimize the numerous gains already achieved. His statement was like taking stock of past developments at a decisive moment of our long struggle." (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary

Contributors:

Political	-	DS Scott, M ¹⁷⁸ sterner
Military	-	Lt. Col. Joy
Psychological	-	CR Reynolds

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POLITICAL

1. New Cabinet Formed

Nasser's new cabinet was announced on October 18. It is more compact than the previous one (5 Vice-Presidents and 20 ministers as opposed to 7 Vice-Presidents and 36 ministers). In addition to the former Syrian Ministers, all of whom have resigned, 6 former Egyptian Ministers have been dropped. Among them were the Minister of Agriculture, Sayed Marei, and the Minister of Agrarian Reform, Ahmad al-Mahrouqi, both of whom were apparently held accountable for this year's cotton worm disaster.

There is no change in line-up of Nasser's closest lieutenants. The Vice-Presidents are still Boghdadi (whose position in the economic field was considerably strengthened), Amer, who continues as military chief, Muhyadin, who was put back as head of internal security. Hussain and al-Shafei continue much as before.

The reshuffle seems to tidy up lines of authority in the economic field, and there also appears to be a strengthening of the moderate element in this area. Hasan Abbas Zaki, believed to be an economic radical, is out; Qaisouni, moderate and professionally able, has the Ministry of Economy to himself; Boghdadi has been placed in overall charge to head up the economic effort.

Four new ministers were appointed: Health, Dr. Muhammad al-Muhandes; Justice, Fat'hi al-Sharqawi; Agriculture, Dr. Muhammad Hashad; Higher Education, Abd al-Azia Al-Sayed. All are professional men with practically no political background. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: The main objective of the reorganization would appear to be the selection of an effective team to carry out Nasser's new economic drive forward. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Arrests and Sequestration of Property of Egyptian Capitalists

After Cairo had been swept for several days with reports that wholesale arrests of Egypt's wealthy class were taking place, confirmation came on October 22 when the press front-paged an announcement by Minister of Interior Muhyadin that 40 "reactionaries" had been arrested and the properties of 167 sequestered. Heading the list of arrested persons were former Wafdist Ministers Fuad Serrag al-Din and Ibrahim Farag, both of whom had been released from prison for reasons of health. Others in the list of arrests and those on property-sequestration list are all among Egypt's richest families - a great many of them of foreign extraction (Lebanese, Syrian, Armenian, Greek). Egyptian Copts and the few remaining wealthy Jewish families are also hard-hit, but both lists also include a number of Egyptian Muslims. Muhyadin's announcement charged that these people had "exploited different classes of people for own interests...used their capital in dominating the people...as weapon against peoples welfare and in maintaining monopoly of national income". (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Comment: Although it is possible that some conspiracy was actually afoot which the regime discovered, it strikes us as more likely that the action was precautionary with two specific objectives (1) to break once and for all the wealth and therefore power of the most hostile old regime families who might try to engineer a coup (2) to scare the daylights out of the remaining wealthy class so that they will cooperate in the implementation of Nasser's new "revolutionary" program. Throughout Muhyadin's statement runs theme that government's action necessary to safeguard revolution from stab in back such as occurred in Syria. ("Reactionary elements in Syria with money as main weapon managed to mobilize separatist and treacherous elements and strike violent blow against Syrian peoples interests.") (Embtel 750) (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Senator Humphrey's Visit

Senator Humphrey visited Cairo from October 19-23. In addition to receiving a briefing by Ambassador Badeau and Embassy officers, he made calls on Deputy Speaker Fuad Galal, Deputy Foreign Minister Zulficar Sabri, Minister of Culture Okasha and President Nasser. The Minister of Culture took a particular interest in his visit, apparently seeking to build up US support for the program to save the Nubian monuments. The Senator's call on him was at the Minister's initiative, and the Minister also gave a luncheon for the Senator and made special arrangements for visits to the Egyptian Museum and the principal historic monuments, including the "Son et Lumiere" show at the Pyramids.

The Senator's call on President Nasser lasted for nearly two hours and was apparently cordial, relaxed and wide-ranging. (Embtel 756) The Senator reported that Nasser indicated that as a result of the Syrian secession he would now concentrate on his internal program for Egypt. Nasser welcomed the improvement in US-UAR relations and expressed interest in expanding US aid, particularly in the agricultural field. He was critical of Communist subversive activities in the Arab world and noted they were resorting to the Popular Front tactics in Syria. However he credited the Government of the Soviet Union with honoring its agreements with him despite policy differences. He justified the recent arrests of wealthy Egyptians as necessary to prevent these people from working against his regime and its objectives. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Comment: Despite programming difficulties caused by changes in the Senator's schedule, the UAR Government went out of its way to give the Senator a good reception, including better than usual treatment in the press (See Psychological). His reception was undoubtedly an aspect of current UAR efforts to create a favorable atmosphere for increased US assistance. At the same time Senator Humphrey himself apparently struck a responsive note with Nasser. (CONFIDENTIAL)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Traffic in Suez Canal Area Restricted

During a road reconnaissance from Suez to Port Said on 20 October,

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the Asst. ARMA was stopped at the Shallufa Crossing and denied access to the Canal Road from Suez to Ismailia. On 21 October Senator Humphrey was denied clearance to fly in the AIRA plane from Cairo to Suez and on to Port Said.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Best guesses for travel restrictions appear to be the long overdue rotation of military units in and out of Sinai or possibly the rumored movement of a large number of political unreliaables to some unknown detention camp in the Sinai. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Rumored Military Arrests

During the week a large number of unconfirmed reports and rumors of the arrest of 40 to 130 Army officers circulated throughout Egypt. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Most probably story was that a group of junior officers were indiscreet enough to circulate a list of grievances at the same time the government was "cracking down" on reactionary and opportunist ministers and millionaires. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Marshal Amer Survives

During the recent ministerial changes (see Political), Field Marshal Hakim Amer was retained as Vice President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces - in spite of numerous reports and rumors that he was finished because of his handling of the Syrian situation during the recent coup. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: In spite of his retention, it is felt that President Nasser's confidence in Amer was shaken. Amer was probably spared to avoid the revealing of friction within the original revolutionary committee and to avoid exciting the supporters of the Marshal within the Armed Forces. (CONFIDENTIAL)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Arrests and Sequestrations

The announcement by Interior Minister Mohieddine of the arrest of 40 "reactionaries" and the sequestration of the property of 167 was the top news in the newspapers of October 22 after being broadcast on radio and television the night before.

The arrests and sequestrations evoked predictable press support.

Said AL QOMHOURIA on October 22: "When the readers have a look at the list of those detainees and of those whose funds have been placed under sequestration, they will at once realize that these measures have been both necessary and just. For any citizen who has witnessed the acts of reaction and imperialism can only expect from the enemies of the people to look for opportunities to deprive them of their freedom and unity."

Said the same paper on the following day: "The ranks of citizens are

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in need of being purged of these reactionaries whose interests have been affected, since the creation of a people's revolutionary base also demands that it should be completely freed from any danger of conspiracies or intrigues aimed at deterring the people from taking an active part in the revolutionary drive."

Said AL AKHBAR on October 23: "These measures, besides being aimed at protecting the people against any threat to its gains, it also are aimed at protecting these persons themselves against the danger of caprices or foolhardy acts which may expose them to severe measures."

The scene may have been set psychologically on October 18 by the publication in AL AHARAM of a list of persons owning more than the permitted maximum of L.E. 10,000 worth of shares in 159 non-nationalized companies listed in law No. 119 of last July. In the same paper on October 24 there appeared a second list of such shareholders in the same companies. On October 25, AL AHARAM published a list of shareholders of the Aboukir Agricultural Company which was nationalized last July. Further lists have been promised. On October 24, AL AHARAM, commenting on the lists, said: "The real picture of society must show the points of strength and the points of weakness in it. The real strength in any country is its actual wealth...Therefore the distribution of wealth in any society shows where real power lies."

Who owned Egypt before the socialist measures of last July? the paper asked. Did the masses own it or did an "alien minority" own it. Would the Arab masses have been able to erase injustice, exploitation and feudalism without a social revolution which struck its major blow with the enactment of socialist laws last July?

2. Senator Humphrey's Visit

While Senator Hubert Humphrey's visit to Cairo (Oct. 19 - 23) caused no editorial reaction, press treatment of his activities was cordial. Especially good treatment was given to the Senator's well attended (by US, UAR and UK reporters) news conference at the Hilton. (See USINFO October 23) All papers carried useful accounts which seemed to be founded in the story prepared by the Middle East News Agency. Ignored was a question asked by travelling American author Alfred Lillienthal: Why couldn't the Senator take advantage of improved US-Arab relations to agree with his Republican colleagues to remove the Arab-Israel issue from American politics? Visibly annoyed, Humphrey denied that the Arab-Israeli issue was of any importance in American politics, said that American Jews were good Americans before they were anything else. After the reporters had left the Senator made no bones about his irritation.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary

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Contributors:

Political	-	CCStrong; MSterner
Military	-	Lt. Col. Joy
Psychological	-	CReynolds

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SUBJECT:		POLITICAL WEEKA NO. 44 USIA-11			

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POLITICAL

1. Continuing Deliberations on Reorganization of Government Administration and "Popular Base"

The Cairo political scene continues to be dominated by Nasser's efforts to put in motion the new "revolutionary surge forward" while at the same time eliminating any actual or potential threat to the regime. Nasser has had six lengthy cabinet meetings since October 19 which have been devoted, according to the press, to a discussion of "governmental and popular reorganization". Two more meetings are scheduled for November 1 and 2 before important political decisions are announced in two areas (1) reorganization of the "popular base" (i.e. National Union and National Assembly) (2) immediate measures to bring down the cost of living. Concerning (1), a press article on November 1 said that the National Union would be rebuilt on a new basis to purge it of "opportunists who do not believe in the inevitability of the revolution". This principle also applies, according to the article, to reorganization of the National Assembly, which should not merely be democratic in form, but which "should emanate from the true principles of our socialist revolution". (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: In summary, the primary effort being made at the present time is to develop a more tightly controlled machine to make Nasser's domestic program work. In classic style the new system is billed as "popular" but actually includes features of an intensification of police state methods. (Embtel 787) (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Properties of Additional 255 Persons Sequestered

The sequestration of the properties of an additional 255 persons was announced in a list published October 31. Added to the list published on October 21 this brings the total of persons whose property has been sequestered to 422. More than 100 persons on the latest list are immediately identifiable as Jews, many of them jewelers or small businessmen who do not have great wealth. The majority of the remaining names are foreign in origin, particularly Lebanese-Syrian, and almost all are wealthy. Egyptian Copts were not hard hit numerically but included in the list are the heads of two of the most prominent Coptic families in Egypt, the Khayyats and Weesas, Upper Egypt landowners. Several rich Egyptian Muslim families were also included.

Although wealth and/or anti-regime feelings seem to have been the criteria for the inclusion of the non-Jews on the latest list, in the case of the Jews the regime's action has been more sweeping and its intention would appear to be to wipe out the Jewish community in Egypt altogether.

No new arrests have been announced, although the Embassy continues to get reports that some have taken place in addition to the 40 announced on October 21. (Embtel 797) (CONFIDENTIAL)

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3. Senator Symington Visits the UAR

In one of a series of recent congressional visits, Senator Stuart Symington (Democrat - Missouri) arrived in Cairo on October 25 for a three-day visit, accompanied by a staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. As the Senator's principal interest in the area lay in the political and economic scene, Embassy briefings by the Ambassador, Political and Economic Counsellors, and Service Attaches, were arranged, and, in addition, the Senator made an hour-long call on Foreign Minister Fawzi. He also had the opportunity to hold discussions with President Nasser's Advisor on North American Affairs and with the local representative of UNRWA. The Senatorial group departed for Jerusalem on October 28. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Syria Accuses UAR of Sponsoring Infiltration Attempt

The war of nerves between Syria and the UAR continues, with charges and counter-charges being freely tossed about. The latest incident involves a shooting fray on the Syrian-Lebanese border, resulting in claims by Syria that an infiltrating party, fully equipped with automatic weapons, had been apprehended crossing the border for purposes of sabotage and that the group had been paid by an Egyptian officer, Abdul Magid Farid. Official Lebanese sources replied that the men were simple shepherds and that Farid had returned to Cairo prior to the time that Syria said he was in Beirut. Nasser promptly asked the Lebanese Government for an official investigation.

For its part, the UAR has also formally requested the Arab League to look into the alleged detention in Syria of Egyptian military and civilian officials who had been in Syria at the time of the coup and have been refused permission to return home. The note charged repeated moral and physical ill treatment and offered to back up the UAR's claims with documentary proof.

Comment: While the situation is far from clear, the reputation of the Egyptian officer involved in the first affair, Abdul Magid Farid, is not such as to inspire confidence in the righteousness of the UAR's stand. Farid is believed to have been an intelligence officer for years and was expelled from Iraq in 1959 while he was military attache, apparently for complicity in an attempt to overthrow the Iraqi Government. He is known to have been in Beirut at least for a few days and some reports have indicated that he took with him LE 1,000,000. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. Special Session of Arab League

At an extremely brief Arab League session on October 28, Syria was readmitted to the League, with no dissenting voice. (Iraq did not attend because of the presence of the Kuwaiti delegate.) The head of the two-man Syrian delegation, Jamal el-Farra, in his acceptance speech remarked on the traditional friendliness that Syria feels for the UAR despite their recent breach, but his declarations were reportedly met by a stony silence from the UAR delegate.

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The second issue raised at the meeting concerned the UAR request for an investigation of Syrian charges against the UAR. A decision was reached in short order to allow SYG Hassuna to look into the matter rather than to appoint a committee to do so; in the Embassy's view, this tends to confirm persistent reports that the UAR wants to have the investigation dropped.

The SYG also is reported to have discussed with the Council the recognition of Israel by Ethiopia, as well as reported Israeli work on diversion of the Jordan River, but it is not clear whether or not these two items were put to a vote. It is known, however, that Hassuna later expressed to the Ethiopian Ambassador the Arab League's "sorrow" at his country's recognition of Israel, and asked for reconsideration of the matter. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

6. UAR Attacks King Saud for Backing Syrian Coup

Haikal's regular weekly article in al-Ahram on October 27 accused King Saud of having placed "unlimited funds" at the disposal of the officers who carried out the coup d'etat in Syria. Saud was also accused of having brought pressure of Quwatli to announce his support of the "separatist regime".

Comment: Haikal's articles are frequently the cue for a full-scale editorial onslaught from the rest of the press, but in this case a concerted anti-Saud campaign has yet to materialize. A few derogatory articles appeared subsequent to Haikal's, but the attack has not been sustained. (UNCL)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Troop Movement in UAR

During October, several major troop movements took place in the UAR (Egypt). The Third Infantry Brigade, previously quartered at the Pyramids Camp (Giza) was relocated in the Dashur Barracks in the desert approximately 15 kilometers south of the Giza Pyramids. The Pyramids Camp area has been completely abandoned. During the same period the 5th Infantry Brigade, previously quartered in FAYID (Canal Zone) replaced the 2d Infantry Brigade in the Sinai. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Occupation of the new Dashur Barracks has been expected for some time. It is believed that the 4th Infantry Brigade at AL MAZA may follow suit in the not too-distant future. The rotation of troops in the SINAI has also been expected and though the 2d Infantry Brigade was evidently relieved, parts (armor and artillery) of this Brigade remained in position apparently as reinforcement to the 5th Infantry Brigade. This rotation may have been the reason for closing of the CANAL ROAD to AARMA on 20 October. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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2. Maneuvers in Desert South of Suez

Infantry, tanks and supporting artillery units were observed on maneuvers in the desert area south of Suez and west of the Red Sea on 29 October. Some personnel were equipped with white helmets evidently prepared for night movement. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: It is believed that the units involved in these maneuvers came primarily from the Canal Zone. This may be the beginning of the annual maneuvers believed postponed by the recent coup in Syria. (CONFIDENTIAL)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Popularization of a Purge

Principal target for UAR propaganda machinery this week has been the UAR citizenry. Editorials and news columns have been filled with praise for the government's socialist legislation and condemnation of the "reactionaries who oppose it". Long lists of company shareholders whose property has been sequestered appeared, followed by comments like this one from Al Gomhouria: "The society has amputated the bad cells--the cells of reaction and capitalism, and the body of society has become sound, for it consists now only of the cells of action and development." A full-page article in the English and French-language papers described the miserable lot of workers in a textile mill prior to nationalization, and told how government administration had restored the workers' hope. Al Akhbar promised its readers that the socialist measures will "...transform the life of the laboring classes from poverty and privation into ease and prosperity." The importance attached by the government to the internal propaganda campaign is illustrated by a press account of a meeting between Minister of State Hatem and the directors of information, radio, television and tourism. Hatem instructed the officials--according to the newspaper account--in methods of coordinating their efforts to "achieve ideological unity among citizens.."

Sporadic attacks on Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, and other "imperialist agents" were submerged in the tide of internal propaganda.

Comment: The all out effort to create the image of a golden future in Egypt and the absence of any sustained attacks on outside "enemies" may indicate some uncertainty as to the general popularity of the reform measures. In this respect, it is noteworthy that, after much advance publicity, the markedly unpopular measure forbidding a worker to hold more than one job has not been enforced. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. Bomb Reaction

There has been little editorial reaction to the Soviet nuclear tests, including the 50-megaton blast, although news coverage of the latter, including ~~adverse~~ world reaction, has been extensive. Gomhouria's Nashashibi deplored the tests, but carefully refrained from bias by inserting a gratuitous comment to the effect that Washington thinks only of detonating a

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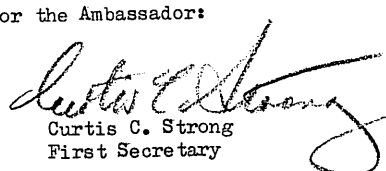
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superior bomb. Rose El Yousef published two cartoons on Khrushchev and the bomb, but in neither was the comment strong. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. New Weekly Newspaper to Appear

Mustafa and Ali Amin, deposed publishers of Al Akhbar, now directors of Dar Al Hilal publications, will bring out a new newspaper on November 26. Called Akher Lahza (Last Moment) the newspaper probably will become a daily, according to Cairo press circles. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:


Curtis C. Strong
First Secretary

Contributors:

Political	-	DScott; MS ^{res.} terner
Military	-	Major Tessieri
Psychological	-	DHelgersen

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SUBJECT:

POLITICAL WEEKA NO. 46

AGR-2 COM-2 LAB-2 TR-2

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6. UAR Delegation to ILO Conference

ARMY

Syro-Egyptian Military Repatriation

PSYCHOLOGICAL

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2. US Exhibit of King Tutankhamen Collection
3. Ghost of Lumumba
4. US Basketball Team in the UAR

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POLITICAL

1. Contacts Between Non-Aligned Leaders

Information which the Embassy had obtained earlier in the week from the Indian Embassy to the effect that Tito would probably come to Cairo to join discussions to be held between Nasser and Nehru was confirmed by the announcement in the press that Tito is expected to arrive on November 17. Nehru, expected a day later, is stopping off on his way home from his recent visit to the U.S.

Meanwhile the press on November 14 carried a story which said that contacts had recently been taking place in Cairo and elsewhere between several of the non-aligned states concerning the best means by which the non-aligned group could meet "imperialist conspiracies" which have developed since the Belgrade Conference. The same article featured in interview given by the Mali Ambassador in Cairo who confirmed that this was a subject of these diplomatic contacts and described the "conspiracies" in the following terms: "In Ghana the imperialists hatched conspiracies against Nkrumah; in Yugoslavia the imperialists threatened to cut the American economic aid; in Indonesia the imperialists gave rise to economic problems; and in the UAR the imperialists were behind the secessionist movement." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The Mali Ambassador's remarks suggest there is a feeling among the non-aligned leaders that imperialism has seized the initiative from them recently and that another major conference is necessary to reestablish the authority of the non-aligned states on the international scene. For more personal reasons Nasser may be promoting such a conference in the hopes that it will be held in Cairo and thereby help to restore some of the prestige that he lost as a result of the Syrian secession. While Nehru is understood to be unenthusiastic about non-aligned conferences, Tito appears to have reasons to seek an occasion to remodel his international image, and Sukarno has been known for some time to be promoting a second Bandung Conference. Thus the idea of another non-aligned conference appears to be in the air but not to have taken shape. It may not be a major topic of the Nasser, Nehru Tito meeting here, but if it is discussed, the pattern of the First Bandung, including the participation of aligned countries of both left (Chicom) and right (Pakistan), is not likely to be favored. (Embtel 859) (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Cabinet Meetings Continue

Nasser had another long meeting with his cabinet on November 15 during which final steps in the formation of the Preparatory Committee for the National Congress of Popular Forces were reviewed. Formal announcement of the formation of the Committee and the list of its members is now scheduled for November 18. According to the November 17 press all Vice Presidents, Ministers, Governors, and a number of Nasser's advisors will be members of the Committee.

The first meeting of the Committee has been postponed for about a week and is now scheduled for November 25. The reason given for the postponement is Nasser's discussions with Tito and Nehru. However, there is also a report that

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the organizers of the Preparatory Committee are having difficulty in finding non-official persons willing to serve on the Committee.

3. UAR Rockets

A demand for the resignation of a prominent West German Rocket specialist from his position as Director of the Stuttgart Jet Propulsion Research Center brought a quick reaction in Cairo (and Tel Aviv), since the announced reason for the request for resignation was that the scientist had been aiding the UAR in rocket research. The Israeli press built up the story, perhaps partly for propaganda purposes, into a claim that the UAR possessed rockets capable of reaching all Israeli cities, and the Cairo press, perhaps equally for propaganda reasons, was careful not to deny the allegations. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Although the West German Embassy in Cairo discounts Israeli claims of UAR rocket capability as exaggerated and indicates its belief that the German scientist had limited himself to teaching only well-known fundamentals of rocketry, this Embassy is reasonably confident that the UAR, if it does not at the moment possess medium range rockets, is working toward that end. Rumors have reached us that European technicians have been assisting the UAR in rocket development program. It is a reasonable assumption that the UAR possesses the capability, with outside advice, of constructing a fairly unsophisticated rocket, perhaps without a guidance system. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. Arab League calls for Sympathy Strike in Support of Algerian Leaders

As a gesture of sympathy for the Algerian leaders, whose physical condition as a result of their hunger strike is reportedly deteriorating, the Arab League issued a call on November 13 for a general strike to be held November 16 in all Arab countries, lasting for one hour. The UAR prudently reduced its work stoppage to thirty minutes, but even so, the effort could hardly be considered as successful. Busses and trains stopped, Government offices closed, as did schools and universities, but the taxis continued to circulate freely, and only a very small percentage of shops and businesses in Cairo's commercial district bothered to observe the strike. One or two of the larger shops, presumably now in Government hands, pulled down their shutters, but the vast majority continued business as usual. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

The Embassy can only conclude that the UAR had no real interest in achieving complete work stoppage, since it has in the past shown its ability to organize "popular" demonstrations very effectively. In this case the police and the army made no effort to see that shops were closed, and, in fact, three policemen were observed in a coffee shop having their noon coffee during the time of the stoppage. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. Somali Ministers Visit Cairo

El Sayed Aly ISMAIL, Minister of Defense for Somalia, and El Sayed Aly Mohamed HIRANI, Minister of Information for Somalia, are visiting Cairo. Ismail arrived on November 6 to present a "personal message" from the Prime

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Minister of Somalia to Nasser. Since his arrival he has met President Nasser, Vice President Amer, Vice President al-Shafei, and various military officials. He visited the military academy, military factories, iron and steel mills, and naval units at Alexandria. Ismail's visit has received extensive press coverage.

Hirani arrived a week later for the purpose of "strengthening the ties of friendship" between the UAR and Somalia. His visit has received considerably less press coverage.

6. UAR Delegation to ILO Conference

Dr. Aly el-GERAITLI, a director of the Economic Development Organization and chairman of the Alexandria Bank, and Mohammed Aly RIFAAT, Secretary General of the Afro-Asian Economic Cooperation Organization, will represent the UAR at the ILO Conference in Geneva next week. (UNCLASSIFIED)

The announcement of the names of the delegates did not contain any reference to a worker delegate. However, Anwar SALAMA, President of the Egyptian Workers' Federation, has told an Embassy Officer that he would be at the November ILO Conference, presumably representing UAR workers. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Syro-Egyptian Military Repatriation

Repatriation of Syrian and Egyptian military personnel continued this past week. According to local press, the UAR liner "MISR" left Beirut for the UAR with 466 Egyptians on board on 10 November. Port authorities said that 310 of them were military personnel and the remainder were civilians (dependents). On the previous day (9 Nov.) the same liner had discharged 861 Syrians in Beirut. On 12 November, the Cairo French press (LA BOURSE EGYPTIENNE) announced that the second and last group of Syrian military had arrived at Port Said that day and would be transported to Beirut the same evening aboard the MISR. This same ship would then return to Port Said with the last group of Egyptians from Syria. This article also stated that the first group which returned to Egypt aboard the MISR yesterday (11 Nov) was composed of 249 officers and men "of which 81 soldiers were from the contingent of the 'LIGHTNING' unit which had parachuted at BATTAKIA". (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The exact number of Egyptian military personnel being repatriated is difficult to determine. The UAR English and French presses not only disagree on the number of military (310 vs 249) but also on the day of arrival (10 Nov vs 11 Nov). Further, reliable information indicates that the figure given for Syrians repatriated from the UAR (861) is almost 50% higher than the actual number which disembarked in Beirut. The local propaganda leads one to believe that the UAR is in the vanguard of the repatriation effort, i.e., the number being repatriated to Syria is considerably higher than the number being

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repatriated to Egypt. However, if the figures published by the local press are accurate, they are indicative of the extensive transfer which had been conducted by the pre-coup "central government" of key Syrian officers to the Southern Region, in contrast with the smaller number of Egyptian officers transferred to Syria.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Algeria in the UAR Press

France's alleged ill-treatment of the imprisoned Algerian leaders provided the dominant theme in the UAR press during the past week. Editorial comment contains little that has not been said by UAR editorial writers before, and it is noteworthy at this time only in terms of its quantity, and its intensity. Nasser al-Din Nashashibi of Gomhouria, for example, made a thinly-veiled suggestion that the Arab world could best strike back at the French through attacks on what he calls French hostages. He mentions French commercial interests in the Arab world and then, speaking of the French Embassy in Beirut, says: "There are scores of Frenchmen and their families in that Embassy." He concludes with these words: "Arabs, I have pointed out to you to the best of my knowledge, the way to vengeance." Absent from these attacks has been any direct mention of US support for France. However, one editorial attacked NATO, and reference was made to a film being made by UAR-TV of NATO weapons being used by the French in Algeria. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. US Exhibit of King Tutankhamen Collection

The National Gallery exhibit of Tutankhamen art objects received, and continues to receive, wide and favorable publicity. Numerous stories--and a few pictures--have been published, and not even the anti-US Al Masaa has found grounds for criticism. USIS news releases on the exhibit have been published in some detail. The only fly in the ointment came from UAR-TV, which had scheduled a fifteen minute film on Minister of Culture Okasha and Mrs. Kennedy at the opening of the exhibit. The film, scheduled for 8:15 p.m. November 16, did not appear. UAR-TV scheduling being what it is, it is quite possible the omission was inadvertent. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Ghost of Lumumba

The report of the UN committee which investigated the death of Lumumba opened the door for another round of anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist comment from the UAR press. Al Akhbar tied it all together as follows: "The murder of Hammarskjöld, the criminal attempts to murder Ben Bella and thousands of his compatriots in French prisons, do they fit into one new imperialist plan intended to strike against independence movements and intimidate the national liberation movement in the African Continent?" Abdel Aziz Fahmi, writing in Al Gomhouria, said much the same thing in commenting on the committee report and what he called French atrocities: "It has thus become quite clear that the colonialist system is the source of all these crimes, which would not come to an end if colonialism were not completely eradicated." (UNCLASSIFIED)

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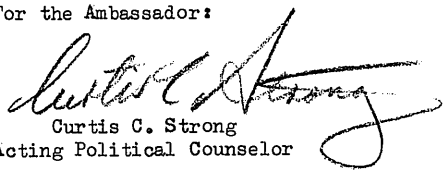
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4. US Basketball Team in the UAR

The visit of the Phillips Oilers basketball team to the UAR (under the President's Program for Cultural Presentations) has been so far a gratifying success. Although the team defeated a Cairo team by a rather humiliating margin (99-56) UAR sportswriters displayed no bad temper in reporting the game. On the contrary, they were unanimous in their praise for the skill and sportsmanship of the US team, and had some rather acid comments for their own side. Al Ahram said: "Yesterday, Cairo spectators and basketball team enjoyed the excellent basketball show displayed by U.S. Phillips 66 which defeated us: 99/56. The winning team is that of one single industrial plant in the land of basket ball and the defeated team represents the cream of our players...Either team proved how the game is faring in its own country. We are now still spelling the alphabet of the game before a team which had earned successfully its PH.D. with an 'excellent' citation."

For the Ambassador:


Curtis C. Strong
Acting Political Counselor

Contributors:

Political	-	DScott; JBahti;MSsterner
Military	-	Major PTessieri
Psychological	-	RHelgerson

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SUBJECT:		POLITICAL WEEKLY NO. 47 CIA-16 Ag-2 Com-2 LAB-2 TR-2 USA-10			

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POLITICAL

1. Nehru-Nasser-Tito Meeting in Cairo

Taking advantage of Nehru's brief (22-hour) stop-over in Cairo on his way back to New Delhi after visiting the U.S. and Mexico, a meeting was arranged including Tito as well as Nasser and Nehru. The meeting was billed in the Cairo press as an important discussion among top non-aligned leaders; however the joint communique issued after the meeting limited itself to bland generalities about world tensions, disarmament, nuclear testing and the constructive role of the non-aligned countries in dealing with various world problems. The Embassy has received reports that Nehru lectured his colleagues, expressed distaste for Soviet methods and by implication some of those of his colleagues, and ignored their suggestions for another non-aligned conference. (Embtel 874) (CONFIDENTIAL)

In a subsequent cable to Tito, Nasser has credited the former with the initiative for convening the meeting and stated that Nehru welcomed it. The Embassy is inclined to question both assertions. Indian sources here made no secret of Nehru's irritation over the meeting and while Tito may well have desired such a meeting it was equally in Nasser's interests and seems more likely to have been initiated by him. That Nasser should feel called upon to send such a cable suggests that he is seeking to show that it was Tito more than he who was showing concern over the alleged tougher US position towards neutrals. (Embassy's A-162) (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Press Attacks US for Allegedly Putting Pressure on Neutrals

The lull which has prevailed since the Syrian coup in press attacks on the US was broken last week by a sharp campaign against the US for allegedly adopting a get-tough policy with the neutrals. The ostensible provocation for this flurry of anti-US editorials was the reference to neutrals in President Kennedy's Seattle speech, particularly a passage which had been in the advance release of the speech but which were changed in the speech as actually delivered. It was clear from the UAR's counter-attack, however, that behind the President's words the UAR was disturbed by signs that "pressure" in one form or another was already being applied on some of the non-aligned states. In the course of several editorials these "pressures" were identified as follows: (1) the US was considering cutting off aid to Yugoslavia because of Tito's stand at the Belgrade Conference (2) the "imperialists" had launched a conspiracy against Nkrumah and a "conspiracy of a religious nature" against Sekou Toure (3) an attempt was being made to draw Nehru out of the non-aligned camp (particular sensitivity on this point was indicated, and one editorial attempted to prove Nehru's talks with Kennedy had not really been as cordial as everyone seemed to think) (4) the UAR had to face a "secessionist reactionary movement" in Syria as a punishment for its courageous stand at Belgrade. A final charge appeared in the November 24 press: the imperialists were dumping surplus rubber on the world market in order to bring economic pressure on Ceylon and force it to abandon non-alignment. In addition to these charges that the US was trying to put the squeeze on the neutrals,

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there was a simultaneous increase in attacks on US policy in other areas, e.g., US opposition to admission of Communist China to the UN and US policy in the Congo. (Embtels 871 and 873) (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: The attack on the US reached its peak on November 19, lasted for three days, and now appears to be tapering off. In the Embassy's view the attack was designed to be a jab at the US, sharp enough to register but not heavy enough to bring about serious impairment of relations, to warn the US that to adopt a get-tough policy with the neutrals would not be wise. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Increased UAR Propaganda Attacks Against Syria

Although the press and radio campaign against Syria has not ceased since the September coup, it has varied in intensity, often overshadowed by other stories. It has recently been stepped up, however presumably because of the Syrian elections which will take place shortly. Several themes are apparent in the overall line:

- (1) Syria is full of unrest and pro-Nasser demonstrations continue to take place in spite of harsh police methods;
- (2) Saudi Arabia and Jordan are attempting to protect their tottering monarchies and, incidentally, Western oil interests, by a proposed union with Syria. Israel and Iraq are also supporting the Syrians, the one to weaken Arab unity, and the other to secure backing for the annexation of Kuwait.
- (3) Syrian elections have been rigged in advance and will not be an expression of popular will.
- (4) The Kuzbari Government is badly split, not only into warring civilian groups, but within the Army itself.
- (5) The resignations of Kuzbari and other ministers are proof of the failure of the Kuzbari government. (See Psychological)

Comment: The strong and continuing emphasis laid on the "rigging" of elections probably indicates that recognition of the Syrian Government by the UAR is still a long way off, in view of Nasser's declaration in October that recognition could only follow the election of a truly representative Government.

4. Preparatory Committee for "National Congress of Popular Forces"

Nasser issued a decree on November 18 setting up a 250-man Preparatory Committee for the "National Congress of Popular Forces" which is to convene in December. As expected, the list of members is made up of the regime hierarchy (all Vice Presidents, Ministers and Governors are included); a large "semi-official" group of regional National Union members, labor leaders, heads of student groups, etc.; with a padding of pro-regime University

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professors and other professionals. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Anwar Sadat, formerly Speaker of the recently-dissolved National Assembly, has been appointed Secretary General of the Committee. The Committee is scheduled to begin its work on November 25 with Nasser addressing the opening meeting. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: From its composition, there is no sign that the committee will be any less controlled from the top than previous hand-picked committees have been. (A-157) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

5. Supplementary Lists of Sequestrations

Two further short lists have been published of persons whose properties have been sequestered by the state. On November 21 a list of 29 names appeared; on November 23 another 15 names. Both lists again included a number of Jews, some of whom have reportedly already left the country.

Although rumors are still circulating that there are still more lists of sequestrations to come, there are other indications that the atmosphere in Cairo is relaxing. The Embassy has heard reports that persons with "pull" in the right places are managing to get desequestered or at least to escape in some manner from the full application of the sequestration measures. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. Visit to Egypt of Somali Ministers

Somali Defense Minister Ismail concluded a 15-day visit to Cairo on November 21, and Somali Information Minister Hirani is expected to leave on November 25. While extensive publicity was given to Ismail's activities, no specific results have been disclosed. Hirani's visit resulted in an information media exchange and scholarship agreement between the UAR and Somalia. A UAR grant of LE 15,000 to Somali flood victims was also announced during Hirani's press conference on November 24. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Exchange of Military Personnel Between Syria and the UAR

The exchange of military personnel between Syria and the UAR appeared to be virtually completed by November 21 with the exception of a last batch of 300 UAR officers and dependents delayed in Beirut by bad weather. Other issues outstanding between the two governments are being resolved by Arab League Assistant Secretary General NOFAL and two Syrian representatives, both Army officers, now in Cairo. It has been announced that committees will be formed to deal with each question, but neither the composition of the proposed committees nor the issues involved have so far been made public.

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Comment: Evidently the completed exchange involved principally military personnel and their dependents. Al Ahram stated that the Arab League is now preparing plans for the repatriation of civilians between the two countries. Al Ahram also reported that "a number" of UAR engineers are working in Syria under military orders issued by Damascus authorities. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. UAR Military Mission in Morocco

On 20 November, King Hasan II received a UAR Military Mission to Morocco. The King, in a short speech, reaffirmed the ever increasing cooperation between the two countries. The UAR delegation presented His Majesty with some arms produced by the UAR military factories as a gift from Marshal Abdul Hakim AMER. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Though the above event was carried in the local press, no mention of the type or quantity of arms presented was made. Most probably they were of the light infantry variety. (CONFIDENTIAL)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Kennedy Under Attack

Adverse reaction to the President's Seattle speech became intertwined with commentary on the Nasser-Nehru-Tito meeting in Cairo, on Nehru's visit to America and on the late John Foster Dulles. In addition, there was a slap or two at the USSR. Typical editorial remarks were the following:

Gazette, November 18: - "On Thursday, President Kennedy made a speech in Seattle, Washington, which, according to news agency reports, contained a number of disparaging remarks about neutrality. Coming immediately after the visit to the United States of Prime Minister Nehru, the implications of such remarks seem to be clear. It is consequently to be hoped that the discussions in Cairo between Prime Minister Nehru, President Tito and President Nasser contribute to strengthening and forwarding the cause of non-alignment and positive neutrality."

Al Massa, November 19: - "President Kennedy, President of one of the two contesting blocs, attacked non-alignment and denounced its spread. This is yet another proof of this policy's success in the world. The more nations are convinced of it the more they see the danger inherent in the policy of political, military and economic blockades...and that peaceful co-existence is the best path to the security and integrity of the world."

Al Akhbar, November 20: - "John Foster Dulles used to describe neutralism as being opposed to ethical standards since it would inevitably lead to Communism. However, after long and bitter experience, American statesmen appeared to have become convinced of the futility of this policy, since it was clear that neutralist states sought nothing but their own prosperity and liberty as well as the freedom and well-being of the whole world."

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"It would appear, however, that Mr. Kennedy represents an extension of Mr. Dulles, in a new and more dangerous form, as may be proved by his latest declaration on neutralist states."

Abdel Aziz Fahmy, Al Gomhouria, November 21: - "Prior to the Tito-Nasser-Nehru meeting in Cairo, President Kennedy, the former Richard (presumably Richard Nixon) and the United States Secretary of State Dean Rusk made declarations against neutralist states which brought back to mind the Dulles-era idea that those who are not with the United States and the Free World nations represented in NATO are against them and must be fought openly and secretly."

"These statements by the US leaders have indicated clearly that hostility to neutralist states remains a fundamental component of US policy and that the Dulles spirit continues to steer US policy in the field of international relations."

"Furthermore, it was reported that the US Government is considering cutting off its economic aid to Yugoslavia to punish her for her attitude toward certain questions at the Belgrade conference. Another development... is the gist of statements issued by Nehru and US officials... It indicated that there was strong disagreement on US policy in Southeast Asia... These dangers, plus Russia's resumption of nuclear tests despite neutralist protests and her disregard of other peoples' wishes, strengthen the call for closer cooperation among the neutralist countries." (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Tri-Partite Meeting

Exaggerated build-up of the meeting of Nasser, Nehru and Tito tailed off with a bland communique and publication on November 24 of Nasser's telegram to Tito crediting the Yugoslavia chief of state with having taken the initiative in calling the conference in the first place. Representative comment included the following editorials:

Al Gomhouria, November 18: - "The peoples of the world are closely following reports about the meetings of the non-aligned top leaders who are truly representing the conscience of all the peoples of the world, the human conscience which is bound to achieve final victory."

Akhbar El Yom, November 18: - "It has also become clear that some of these powers whenever they deem it opportune for them to oppose the principle of non-alignment, try to use the weapon of depriving non-aligned states of their aid to them. This state of affairs should come to an end once and for all."

Al Gomhouria, November 19: - "The historical attempts which are being exerted by non-aligned countries outline the path of true peace and freedom for all peoples. For there is no neutralist country which likes the continuance of situations which might erupt into war, which supports aggression on people's right to self-determination or which supports the existence of two

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contesting world blocs."

Al Ahram, November 19: - "We are sure that the leaders of non-alignment would disregard the conspiracies that are being engineered around them: For they know full well that the future of humanity at large depends on their historical task."

Al Gomhouria, November 20: - "The joint statement by the neutralist top leaders has come as a warning to the whole world against the danger of armament and nuclear tests, stressing the paramount importance of scientific progress which may either cause universal devastation or ensure the well-being of all peoples of both East and West." (UNCLASSIFIED)

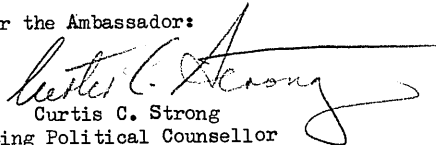
3. Syria

The Cairo press continued to exploit every opportunity to suggest that things were going badly in Syria. Latest chance came with the resignation of Syrian Prime Minister Kuzbari who, according to wire reports, stepped down to stand for election. Typical comment:

Al Gomhouria, November 22: - "Kuzbari's resignation is the end of the play's first act. Soon other ends will follow. For the torches which have been raised in the name of this people soon will dissipate darkness and stamp out secession and enslavement."

Al Akhbar: - "Kuzbari has ended...The same fate awaits every other Kuzbari...But Syria shall remain." (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:


Curtis C. Strong
Acting Political Counsellor

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December 2, 1961

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POLITICAL

1. Preparatory Committee of the National Congress of Popular Forces

The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the National Congress of Popular Forces was opened by President Nasser who delivered a three-hour introductory speech in which he traced the course of the revolution and spoke of the tasks of the Committee. At subsequent meetings there was some debate by members and extended remarks by Nasser devoted largely to his philosophy of the next phase of the revolution. He pointed out that the Congress to be elected in January will not represent all the people but rather those forces - professional groups, trade unions, university faculties, etc. - best able to contribute to the creation of a Charter of national action. The Charter will be written by Nasser and submitted to the Congress for discussion and possible amendment.

Among the many themes elaborated upon by Nasser, the following seem worthy of special note:

- 1) "There will be full freedom and full democracy for the people but neither freedom nor democracy for the enemies of the people!"
- 2) The "people" are defined as those who support the socialist revolution in the UAR.
- 3) Capitalist-reactionaries will be isolated from "the people" and will play no leading role in the UAR.
- 4) Nasser attacked the "voracious nature" of capitalism, though he said he is not against private capital "when it operates in the interest of the country".
- 5) Since all wage earners are workers, separate trade unions for manual and white-collar workers should not exist. The time is not yet opportune to set up trade unions for agricultural workers.
- 6) The UAR does not intend to move in the direction of collective ownership of land.
- 7) Multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives will take up to five years to develop; urban consumer cooperatives will take years to develop and will probably not cover more than 25% of distribution of consumer goods.
- 8) "Social justice means simply taking from the rich and giving to the poor....what was accomplished last July by no means represents the whole social revolution."
- 9) While he does not oppose Marxism, those persons who take instructions from foreign powers are traitors to the UAR. He called special attention to the Communist Party of Egypt which he said took its orders from Sofia.

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Comment: Nasser was talking extemporaneously, and his remarks were rambling, repetitious and contained some apparent contradictions. For this very reason, however, the Embassy feels that his comments may give better clues to his current thinking than a carefully-prepared speech might. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. French Diplomats Arrested for Espionage

At dawn November 24, the UAR police and intelligence agents took into custody three officials of the French Property Mission in Egypt, the French cultural representative, one woman secretary, two French lawyers (one a woman), and two journalists, one Greek, the other Egyptian of Italian descent. Charged with "spying" on behalf of France, the French officials allegedly had sent secret reports on military, economic, and political matters to France, had organized a network of agents, had smuggled large sums of money out of the UAR, and had printed and distributed anti-regime leaflets.

Declarations attributed to members of the Mission admitted not only the above charges, but stated that discussions had been held among them as to the possibility of assassinating President Abdul Nasser and that a "French assassination expert" had been brought to the UAR to look over the plan. UAR Intelligence is reportedly able to produce documents and tape recordings of conversations among French officials to support the accusations and the admissions of the accused. Swiss officials, charged with protection of French interests, have so far been unable to see the prisoners, so evaluation of the evidence is difficult.

A day after the arrests were announced, four Egyptians were added to the bag, having apparently been implicated by statements from members of the first group arrested.

Comment: The celerity and completeness of the declarations made by some of the accused (but not all) was astounding. Photostats of the "confessions", dated the day of arrest and in what is stated to be the handwriting of the accused, appeared in all the Cairo papers and are believed to have had a considerable impact on the general public, always predisposed to believe the worst.

The question of diplomatic immunity as applicable to the French officials is, of course, of major importance. The UAR position, based on a Presidential decree of September 1959, is that the accused have immunity only insofar as their official acts are concerned, and that there has been flagrant overstepping of the bounds of propriety, leaving the French vulnerable to legal action. (However, there is evidence that the premises of the Mission have been entered and its files seized, presumably a contravention by the UAR of the agreement between the two countries.)

The French Government, while denying that improper acts have taken place and branding the charges ridiculous, claims complete immunity for the French officials, based on a UAR note of April 23, 1959, which provided for immunity from jurisdiction without stating any limitations. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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From Cairo

3. Syrian-UAR Talks Get Under Way

With Arab League Assistant Secretary General NOFAL in the chair, talks began this week between Syrian and UAR delegations to settle "outstanding differences", chief of which appears to be Syrian retention of UAR military equipment. According to one source, at the time of the Syrian break-away there was over LE100-Million worth of UAR military equipment in Syria, comprising tanks, aircraft, AA guns, etc., and the Syrians, while willing to pay a "reasonable" amount (in installments) to reimburse the UAR, have flatly refused to release any of the equipment. To do so, they argue, would expose Syria to an Israeli attack, since no other major source of supply is open to them. The discussions are thus believed to revolve about the amount and method of payment, rather than repossession.

Press reports state that Syria will be represented by Col. Zuhair OKEIL and Col. Mohammad al-GANEIDIA. Composition of the UAR side has not been announced officially, but it is rumored to include Mahmoud RIAD, Nasser's Political Advisor. If the reports are accurate, this is evidence of the importance the UAR attaches to these negotiations. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

4. Visits of Somali Ministers

Aid in several forms was given to Somalia by the UAR during or at the conclusion of the visits of Somali Defense Minister ISMAIL and Information Minister HIRANI. The following grants and projects have been announced in the local press, though to what extent they have been implemented is not known:

- 1) an information media assistance agreement, including ten UAR scholarships in this field for Somalis;
- 2) a team of UAR veterinarians to combat cow plague in Somalia;
- 3) a group of engineers to study industrial development projects in Somalia;
- 4) doctors to work in Somali hospitals;
- 5) financial grants and books to religious institutions in Somalia; and
- 6) LE 15,000 and Red Crescent aid for the relief of flood victims.

There are no indications that Defense Minister Ismail's visit resulted in any agreement regarding arms shipments to Somalia. However, it is noted that members of his military delegation are still in Cairo. (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. North Korean Trade Mission in Cairo Becomes Consulate General

According to press reports, the North Korean Trade Mission in Cairo became a Consulate General on November 27, Foreign Minister Fawzi having signed the Consul General's exequatur on November 26. Mr. Pak YUNG, who has served as director of the Trade Mission since it opened on September 17, 1958, was named Consul General. An agreement on this change in the status of the North Korean mission was reached on July 30, 1961, during the visit of a North Korean delegation. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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MILITARY

ARMY

1. President Nasser Denies Army Revolt

On November 26, in an inaugural speech to the Preparatory Committee of the National Congress, President Nasser stated that claims of a revolt by the UAR Army in Fayid (Canal Zone) originated from Radio Damascus and proved that Syria was "playing the game of Imperialism." He also denied that a mass purge had been conducted in the Army. He stated that "four officers...were arrested because of a reason of which you will be told in the future."

On November 30, in another speech before the same body, President Nasser stated, "We are going to organize national resistance groups to set up a national guard and include the fellaheen in it." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comments: Nasser's reference to an army revolt indicates that the rumors to this effect were probably quite strong. Though no factual information has come forth that a revolt did take place, the fact that ARMA access to the Canal Road was denied for a short period in October may be of some significance. Therefore, Nasser's public statement that these rumors were fabricated tends to support the conclusion that there was some "fire" as well as "smoke." (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Unit Field Training in UAR

On November 26, UAR infantry units of from platoon to company size were conducting field exercises in the desert area east of Cairo. Their equipment included several "mock" tanks. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comments: The use of "mock" tanks is not unusual. These are in reality small trucks (½ ton to ¾ ton) with hulls of plywood placed over the vehicles. Small exercises of this type are expected to continue. Large scale maneuvers most probably will not occur until the spring of '62. (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Preparatory Committee

All UAR informational media gave wide coverage to meetings of the Preparatory Committee of the National Congress of Popular Forces (see Political) and the meetings were the principal subject of editorial comment during the week. As might be expected, editorials consisted mostly of lavish praise for the discussions and their goals. Said Al Akhbar: "We are now on the eve of a comprehensive socialist system which would eradicate oppression and exploitation and establish social justice..." Al Ahram commented on the discussions almost as if their ends had already been attained: "The beneficial measures, due to be taken, are so many that we may rightly say we are embarking upon great new achievements..." A great deal of emphasis has been placed upon the freedom of the committee members to disagree, and indeed, there have been public differences of opinion among them. However, these differences tend to concern relatively minor subjects, such as the

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definition of "the people," and do not reflect serious departures from President Nasser's thinking. (UNCLASSIFIED) However, one speaker who advocated freedom of expression even for reactionaries was told firmly by Nasser that full freedom of expression existed.

2. French Espionage Arrests

UAR media are extracting the last ounce of propaganda value from the investigation of what the UAR Government calls a French spy ring. UAR-TV carried taped interviews with two of the French principals involved. The accused persons spoke freely, admitting a number of incriminating facts (see Political) concerning their activities in the UAR. The TV interview was followed up with a long story in Al-Musawwar (weekly news magazine) in which some of the principals were interviewed by Editor Mustafa AMIN. The use of Mustafa Amin - one of the two or three top journalists in the UAR - for this task seems to indicate that a high priority has been placed on gaining all possible publicity from the investigation and subsequent trial. As in the TV interview, the accused persons spoke freely during the Amin interview. Pictures taken during the interview showed them to be in what appeared to be good spirits. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Their manner of speaking, their ready response to the interviewer's questions, their seeming lack of concern with what appear to be serious charges, all appear to cast some doubt as to the means employed in persuading them to agree to the interview. At this point we can draw no conclusions as to the motivations of the French "spies" in lending themselves to such a propaganda circus. However, there are indications that the public confession spectacle may have been overdone, because the nonchalant attitude of the French in confessing to serious crimes has not gone unnoticed by Egyptians and foreigners alike. However, this probably has not altered the widespread local belief in the guilt of the accused. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Syria and the UAR Press

Anti-Syrian propaganda in the UAR press became less frequent during the earlier part of the week, but resumed vigorously on the eve of the Syrian elections. Newspapers joined in describing the elections as "rigged" and "phony," and predicted that the Syrian people will never be deceived by such transparent devices. Said Al-Gomhouria: "The vast majority of the people will expose the fake elections by simply boycotting them..." Other comments took much the same line, describing the elections as reactionary and separatist conspiracies hatched with the aid of imperialism. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:


Curtis C. Strong
Acting Political Counselor

Contributors:

Political	- CCStrong; DScott; JBahti
Military	- Major P. Tessleri
Psychological	- Rheigerson

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REF :				DEC. 9 1961	
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POLITICAL

1. French "Spy Case".

The UAR case against the French and Egyptians accused of espionage developed rapidly after the first press "exposé" last week. Additional confessions attributed to some of the accused, however, added little of significance to the first declarations and appear to be designed primarily to keep the case alive in the press and in the minds of the public.

An extremely lengthy bill of indictment was released on December 6, naming twelve defendants. The two French women involved, who had been in custody since November 24, were released for lack of evidence, but ordered expelled from the country within 24 hours. One additional defendant, Christian D'AUMALE of the Quai D'Orsay, was added and will be tried in absentia. Charges range from instigation of assassination and spying to bribery and illegal transfers of funds.

Through the Swiss Embassy, France on December 3 proposed the formation of an impartial international body to investigate the entire matter, particularly the UAR charges against the French Government, but to date no official reply or acknowledgement has been made by the UAR.

Trial of the accused, according to the press of December 8, will take place the first part of January, having been postponed from the originally announced date of December 7. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: It is the opinion of a British international lawyer that the French position on the immunity of their officials would have a 95% chance of being upheld by any international court. He points out that the "immunities" granted to the French were against legal procedures and were not "diplomatic immunities", since at no time were the French officials considered diplomats. He feels that the subsequent presidential decree that granted partial immunity to the French for official acts is overridden by the previous international agreement under which the French Mission originally came to Cairo.

The Embassy considers it highly unlikely that the UAR will agree to any sort of international commission to investigate the matter, or to rule on the propriety of their arrest of the French officials. Conviction and heavy sentences (the prosecution is demanding life imprisonment at hard labor) seem to be foregone conclusions, but a slight possibility exists that the non-Egyptian defendants may be expelled from the UAR at the conclusion of the trial. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Another Plea For Freedom of Expression at Preparatory Committee Meeting.

Mustafa el-BARADEI, Chairman of the Bar Association and member of the Preparatory Committee, became the second speaker at the Preparatory Committee meetings to urge a return to a more liberal political atmosphere in the UAR.

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Using even stronger words than Khaled Mohamed KHALED (who last week asked for the return of political freedom and political parties), Baradei said: "despite all that has been said about freedom of expression, the fact is that the people are afraid to talk I am not interested in finding out who is responsible for that, but the fact is that we have reached that state Every citizen must feel free to talk and express himself It is a fundamental task of the press to protect freedom."

In the meantime, Secretary-General Sadat announced the appointment of 21 members to a sub-committee which will "define the popular forces" that will be represented in the National Congress, fix the size of the Congress, and formulate general principles regarding representation percentages and elections to the Congress. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. UAR Terms Syrian Elections "Fraudulent".

UAR press and radio launched the expected campaign to discredit the Syrian elections. Cairo alleged that the turnout of voters had been very poor and said this was clear proof that the Syrian people had repudiated the "sham" elections. According to the Cairo version the Syrian military had to use strong-arm methods in order to make the elections come out the way they wanted, i.e. schools were closed, electioneering was restricted, voters were forcibly brought to the polls, and pro-Nasser demonstrators were arrested. The results were termed a complete victory for the "reactionaries", and editorials are continuing their predictions that this can only mean an end to the social reforms achieved during union with Egypt. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. UAR Troops in Kuwait to Return?

On December 5, "Al-Ahram" once again announced that "UAR Forces participating in the Arab Security Force in Kuwait are due to return to Cairo this week". (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Although a withdrawal of the UAR contingent has been predicted periodically since mid-October, there has been no confirmation that this has actually taken place. In view of the numbers involved (approximately 140) their withdrawal would seem to have more political significance than military. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Military Missions.

On December 3, the local press reported that the UAR military mission led by Lt. Gen. Mohammed Farid SALAMA returned from Rabat at the conclusion of its 12-day visit to Morocco. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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On December 2, the Somali military mission led by Brig. Mohammed ZAYYAN paid a visit to the UAR Signal Corps workshops. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The Somali mission arrived in Cairo on November 6 as part of a delegation led by Somali Defense Minister El Sayed Aly ISMAIL. Since the Somali Defense Minister's departure on November 21, the local press has been referring to the military members of this delegation as the Somali Military Mission. There have been no indications that negotiations have taken place though it is believed that some agreements will be made. (CONFIDENTIAL)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. New Information Organization.

A Republican Decree issued this week set up what was described as "a general organization for news, publication, distribution and printing, which will have an economic character and will be attached to the Presidency". According to the statement of its purpose, the organization will "participate in general orientation and the raising of the people's standard culturally, socially and politically ... acquaint public opinion with internal and foreign news ... disseminate information about the UAR and the Arab world in foreign countries ... through the publication of national, political and international books and distribution of newspapers, magazines and films in Arab and other countries."

Directors of the organization will consist of: Minister in charge of information; Director of Broadcasting; Director General of Information, Director General of Tourism, and a member of the State Council. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: It is believed that the new organization will be used principally for the supervision and direction of news and propaganda intended for foreign consumption. In its initial stages, reportedly, it will concern itself primarily with output of the Middle East News Agency (MEN) and National Publishing Co., the Tourism Department, the Information Department and film distribution. However, the phrasing of the announcement leaves the door open for broadening its activities to include the domestic press, radio and TV. It is not impossible that it will provide the framework within which a long-overdue reorganization and consolidation of the UAR press might be accomplished. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. News Values in UAR Press.

The English-language "Egyptian Gazette" on December 8 gave a five-column top head to a lengthy (24column inches) story on India's dispute with Portugal over the Goa enclave. The newspaper on the same day brushed aside the India-China border dispute, including the Chinese note to India, with a one-column head and four inches of type in the lower part of page one. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Syrian "Unrest".

UAR media continue doggedly to report widespread unrest in Syria, dissatisfaction with election procedures, riots, strikes, clashes between army units and the populace. Cairo press speaks of the Syrian situation, and

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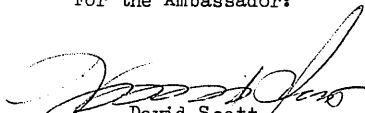
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specifically the Syrian elections, in the following terms: "atmosphere of terror", "armored vehicles of the insurgents laying siege to constituencies", "widespread strikes", and other colorful phrases. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: This picture of scarcely-controlled chaos seems to be at variance with reports reaching Cairo through other means. Western press reports indicate that Damascus was relatively calm during the elections, with nothing like the tense atmosphere described in the Cairo press. While incidents have occurred in Syria recently, it seems clear that the UAR propaganda machine has not only magnified them out of all proportion, but has invented a number of its own. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

For the Ambassador:


David Scott
Second Secretary

Contributors:

Political - DScott, JHBahti, MSterner
Army - Major P. Tessieri
Psychological - RHelgerson

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1. U.S. "Conspiracy" in UN Palestine Deliberations.
2. Right Wing in the US.
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POLITICAL

1. Cabinet Discusses Reorganization of Public Sector of Economy.

Nasser has been mainly occupied during the week with cabinet meetings devoted to economic problems. The meetings have centered on a discussion of the best methods of organizing the government's control over the large number of organizations providing production and services within the public sector of the economy. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. French "Spy Case" (continued)

A further postponement, to January 15, of the French espionage trial has been announced without explanation by the UAR. Press states that 1000 invitations to attend will be sent to various Embassies and interested individuals, as well as the 40 journalists who are expected to cover the proceedings. Two French lawyers have arrived in Cairo to advise and assist the Egyptian legal counsel for the defendants. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Although some diplomatic missions in Cairo seem to have taken up cudgels on behalf of the French and others privately question the legality of the proceedings, there is to date no indication (except possibly the postponement of the trial) that the UAR is weakening in its determination to try and convict the accused. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. Gaza Meeting of Executive Committee of Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization.

The Executive Committee of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) met at Gaza from December 9 to December 11. Twenty-three countries were said to be represented; in addition, the press reported that there were observers from Latin American countries, certain international organizations, and the African offices in Cairo.

The Executive Committee passed a resolution calling for the convocation of "an Afro-Asian Latin American Congress to coordinate national movements in the three continents and intensify the struggle against colonialism." In addition, the Committee passed 24 other anti-Western, anti-imperialist resolutions on Israel, the Congo, Algeria, Angola, "West Irian", Kenya, South Korea, Vietnam, and Laos. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: In spite of press attempts to play up the Committee meeting as a major international conference, an AASC source said that in fact only about 40 persons, including observers, attended. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

4. Algerian "Prime Minister" Visits Cairo.

On December 11, Algerian "Prime Minister" Ben Yussef BEN KHEDDA, accompanied by Minister of Supply BOUSSOUF and Minister of State BEN TOBBAL,

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arrived in Cairo for a four-day visit to discuss the "latest developments in the Algerian case" with UAR officials. In the course of the first two days the Algerians twice saw President Nasser, and held discussions with the Soviet, Chicom, and Yugoslav Ambassadors, as well as Arab envoys. Public statements have so far been confined to banalities, but an important declaration is promised prior to the departure of the group on December 15 for Libya. (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. East German Envoy Visits UAR.

Ernst SCHULZ, East Germany's Minister of Reconstruction and personal envoy of the GDR President, arrived in Cairo on December 2 for a six-day visit. Schulz met with Nasser on December 4 for 1½ hours and gave him a message from Ulbricht which was reported to present the GDR's viewpoint on a German peace treaty and the West Berlin issue. Nasser, according to the press, re-affirmed his "Belgrade viewpoint", that the German question must be settled by peaceful negotiations. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Schulz also met with Ministers Ali Sabri and Sharabassy and Under Secretary Hafiz Ismail. Schulz was accompanied during most of his visits by Wolfgang Kiesewetter, GDR "Commissioner" in the UAR.

Relatively little press coverage was given to Schulz's visit. An official of the German Embassy in Cairo said the entire initiative for this trip came from the GDR and that the West Germans consider it the GDR's annual ploy to develop closer relations with the UAR. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

6. Preparatory Committee Meetings.

Debate in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the National Congress of Popular Forces is supposed to terminate on December 17, after which the report of the Sub-committee will be discussed. Debate in the committee was generally disorganized and, among a variety of items, dealt with the meaning of "isolation" as it applied to "reactionaries and enemies of the state", a proposal to abolish trade unions, and criticism of civil servants and "red tape".

The Sub-committee approved five categories of persons who should be "isolated", though apparently no clear agreement was reached on the definition of "isolation". Also, so far no definition of what elements comprise the "popular forces" has emerged from the proceedings. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. UAR Contingent Being Withdrawn From Kuwait.

Arab League official stated that one-half of the UAR 142-man contingent of the Arab Security Force in Kuwait had returned to Cairo December 13. The

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remainder, minus 5 officers, who are staying in Kuwait, is expected to return early next week. No UAR replacement is anticipated. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Major General Abdul Kerim Appointed Under Secretary of War.

On December 12, the local press announced that Major General Ali Abdul Kerim was appointed Under Secretary of State in the Ministry of War, succeeding Major General Mohammed Abdul Aziz Mustafa, who was appointed Governor of the new Red Sea Governorate. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Major General Ali Abdul Kerim had been the Director of Military Intelligence. No successor to this position has been named. The most likely successor appears to be Brig. Fathy Abdul Ghani, Deputy Director of Military Intelligence. (CONFIDENTIAL)

NAVY

1. Visit of Soviet Naval Delegation to UAR.

An eight-man Soviet naval delegation, headed by Admiral Sergei GORSHKOV, Commander in Chief of the Soviet Navy and Deputy Defense Minister, arrived in Cairo on December 12 for a 10-day visit. Three other admirals are in the party. The delegation proceeded to Alexandria on December 13. (UNCLASSIFIED)

It is reported that the UAR is due to receive additional Soviet naval units - probably two destroyers. The arrival and transfer of these units will probably be timed to take place during the visit of the naval delegation. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: While the anticipated receipt of these units is undoubtedly considered important by the UAR Navy, the transfer in itself does not seem to warrant the presence of a figure as high level as the Commander in Chief of the Soviet Navy. It is, therefore, possible that the Soviets may have some deeper motive in mind, and it is conjectured that as a result of the severing of relations with Albania and therefore the loss of their only real Mediterranean port, they may be probing for new port facilities in the Mediterranean. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. USS SOLEY (DD 707) Visit to Alexandria.

The Destroyer USS SOLEY called at the Port of Alexandria during the period December 5-7. The visit was operational and was for the purpose of unloading 50 tons of dried milk from Care stocks to be delivered to famine-stricken Kenya. This was the first visit of a US Navy ship to Alexandria since 1956. (UNCLASSIFIED)

The visit was marked by extreme UAR security measures and flagrant discourtesy. The general attitude of the UAR authorities was one of

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From Amembassy Cairo

displeasure at the presence of the SOLEY, and at times even hostile. The Commanding Officer, after receiving permission from the Chief of Naval Operations, UAR Navy, to call on the US Consul General as is customary, was surrounded in his car at shipside by security forces and detained for an hour and a half before being allowed to proceed. The officers and men of the ship were not permitted shore leave, but were finally taken on limited guided tour during which their movements were controlled. Inquiries were made to the UAR authorities as to what calls the Commanding Officer should make. The requests were ignored, and normal protocol was not observed. A group of 4 officers sent by the Commanding Officer to make a wardroom call on a Brazilian training ship tied up 50 feet from the SOLEY was stopped at the foot of the gangplank. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Although the timing of the visit may have been somewhat disturbing to UAR authorities, due to the presence of the Commander in Chief of the Soviet Navy in Alexandria to observe UAR naval exercises and possibly also to proximity of the scheduled arrival of 2 Soviet destroyers, their treatment of the SOLEY visit and complete disregard for normal courtesies was unjustifiable by any international standards. While a Brazilian training ship which was in port at the time was accorded full honors and the Soviet admiral actually witnessed UAR naval exercises, the SOLEY was subjected to some very un-neutral treatment. (CONFIDENTIAL)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

I. U.S. "Conspiracy" in UN Palestine Deliberations.

"Gumhuriya" this week attacked the United States for "secretly supporting" the 15-nation UN draft resolution calling for a peace conference between the Arab states and Israel. The attack took the following form:

A large red 8-column headline read:

MOST SERIOUS PLOT AGAINST THE ARABS

The second banner line read:

America, Britain and France Persuade 15 UN Member States
to Submit A Resolution for Holding a Peace Conference
Between Arabs and Israel

A still smaller line said:

America Retreats and Declares that She Objects at
Present to the Issuance of Any Peace Appeal

These headlines were "documented" by naming the 15 states, with indications as to which were under the influence of each of the three Western powers. As an afterthought, the story mentioned that "after submission of the proposal" the American delegate stated that the U.S. could not support the resolution

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because direct Israeli-Arab negotiations would be in vain at this time. The total impression left by the article was that the United States had conspired to have the resolution introduced, attempting at the same time to avoid the blame for it. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: "Gumhuriya" was the only paper to give the UN proceedings an anti-US slant. During recent weeks, "Gumhuriya" has become increasingly irresponsible, if that is possible, resorting to use of fact only when necessary to support its warped viewpoints. This may be due in part to the fact that - in spite of its seven editors-in-chief - "Gumhuriya" is essentially rudderless, with what little direction it has coming from sources which so far cannot be identified. (CONFIDENTIAL)

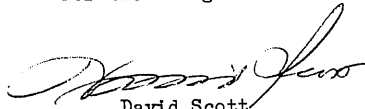
2. Right Wing in the US.

While the UAR press ordinarily takes little note of US domestic policies - except in the case of national elections or "Zionist plots", - the numerous articles in US magazines and newspapers on new right wing organizations in the US are drawing attention to the newly-organized groups, particularly those which the UAR press describes as "extreme rightists". "Ahram" this week published a lengthy article on the subject, most of it apparently extracted from recent US newsmagazine reports. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. USSR-Albania Split.

"Ahram" was the only UAR newspaper to give prominent notice to the Soviet-Albania rift, using an eight-column bannerline to report the severance of relations. "Akhbar" gave it a one-column headline on page one, and "Gumhuriya" put the story on page 2. Only editorial reaction was in "Akhbar", in which surprise was expressed over the event, describing the split as being merely symptomatic of the serious differences between Moscow and Peking. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:


David Scott
Second Secretary

Contributors:

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FROM : Amembassy CAIRO

313

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

December 23, 1961

DATE

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DEC. 23 1961

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SUBJECT:

JOINT WEEKA NO. 51

LAB TR

This document consists of 16 pages.
Number 1 of 20 copies, Series A.TABLE OF CONTENTSPOLITICAL

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3. UAR Position on Goa.
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ARMY

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PSYCHOLOGICAL

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2. India's Action in Goa Praised by UAR Press.
3. Editor Attacks Government Restrictions on Pressmen.

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POLITICAL

1. Preparatory Committee Meetings.

While debate in the Preparatory Committee continued with little evidence of organization, its subcommittee, after eleven days of meetings, presented a report which defined the "popular forces" and their representation in the forthcoming National Congress of Popular Forces. In addition, the subcommittee proposed measures for the political isolation of "reactionaries and other elements."

The Preparatory Committee approved the recommendations of the subcommittee as to the size and composition of the National Congress. This 1500-member body is to be made up as follows: 375 farmers, 300 workers, 150 representatives of "national capital" (i.e. private sector, public establishments and consumer cooperatives), 225 representatives of professional associations, 105 university teachers, 105 students, 105 women, and 135 civil servants.

The sub-committee defined "isolation" as "the deprivation of the right to exercise the political rights enjoyed by all the people; no participation in any political body, no occupation of any leading post (in) any socialist body connected with it such as the unions, the cooperative societies, the federations, and the professional associations." Five major and four lesser categories of persons to be isolated were adopted. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Nasser's Speech on Education Day.

Nasser's speech at Cairo University on December 18 on the occasion of Education Day was a medium-length rehash of the theme that the UAR's goal is to establish a "sound democracy" in which economic and social exploitation by a small minority has been eliminated. The speech contained no new ideas. Although emphasis was heavily placed on the elimination of exploitation by "capitalists, feudalists, and reactionaries", Nasser at one point also said "We shall not accept dictatorship of the proletariat as represented by Communism which also means domination of the country by a small group." (Embtel 991) (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. UAR Position on Goa.

Not unexpectedly, the UAR announced its support for India in the fighting over Goa. There appeared, however, to be an element of restraint in the public declarations of its support. There were no statements on the subject by high-ranking official spokesmen, and the press did nothing to play up the only official statement of UAR policy, a note reportedly circulated by the UAR to the delegations at the UN. As reported by the Cairo press the note announced UAR support for India's efforts to rid its territory of Portuguese imperialism and noted that this position of support was in accordance with the resolutions of the UN, and of the Casablanca and Belgrade Conferences. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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In spite of the fact that the press gave prominent play to a news agency story that Krishna Menon had thanked the UAR for preventing Portuguese ships from using the Suez Canal, the UAR Foreign Ministry denied that any such declaration of policy had been made by the UAR. Officials of the Portuguese Embassy (Cairo) and Consulate (Port Said) said they had no knowledge of the adoption of any such policy by the UAR; moreover, no Portuguese ships had transited the canal, nor were any expected until the end of the first week in January. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. Ben Khedda Makes Statement.

At the termination of a four-day visit to Cairo, Provisional Algerian Government "Prime Minister" Ben Khedda made a statement to the press on the situation in Algeria, and on the discussions he had held in the UAR. His remarks covered largely familiar ground, stressing Algerian willingness to resume negotiations with the French (provided Algerian sovereignty and territorial integrity are recognized) and calling on the Europeans in Algeria to cease support for the "Fascist gangs" that have been committing acts of revenge and terrorism. Naturally, Ben Khedda's statement paid tribute to President Nasser and to the solidarity that exists between Algeria and the UAR. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: All in all, it was an unimpressive declaration, falling far short of the "important statement" that had been announced in advance. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Field Marshal Hakim Amer Visits Eastern Command.

According to the local press, Field Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer, Vice President and CinC of the Armed Forces, paid a surprise visit to forces of the Eastern Command on December 17. He was accompanied by Lt. General Ali Ali Amer, C/S of the Armed Forces, and Air Commander Mohammed Sidki Mahmoud, Commander of the UAR Air Force. Field Marshal Amer reportedly conferred with officers and men of the Eastern Command for three hours on the role of the Armed Forces in the socialist society and the responsibility in safeguarding the aims of the Revolution and the socialist democratic structure of the UAR. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Field Marshal Amer reportedly remained in the Eastern Command the 17th and 18th of December. If the above press report is true, Field Marshal Amer's visit may well have been an effort on the part of the regime to maintain backing of the Armed Forces. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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2. UAR Force Leaves the Arab Security Force in Kuwait.

The following releases were published in the local press during the past week. (Dec 18, 1961): Arab League Asst. SYG, Sayed Nofal discussed with Abdul Aziz Hussein, Kuwait's representative at the Arab League, affairs connected with the Arab Security Force in Kuwait. Nofal said that the League SYG hadnot requested Jordan or Saudi Arabia to increase their forces in Kuwait.

(Dec 19, 1961): The second and last batch of UAR troops in Kuwait who had formed an element of the Arab Security Force to Kuwait will be returning to Cairo within two days. The Arab League has now requested Arab countries to despatch military technicians in place of the departing UAR technicians. Jordan agreed to the request but the League is still waiting for replies from the other countries. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The first part of the UAR contingent reportedly returned to Cairo on December 13, 1961. There is no indication that the second part has arrived in Cairo. Both articles indicate a concerted effort on the part of the Arab League to by-pass Jordan's immediate response to offer troops. In view of past reluctance of other League members to furnish troops to Kuwait, the consensus of opinion among military attachés in Cairo is that the League may have to accept the Jordanian offer. (CONFIDENTIAL)

NAVY

1. Visit of CinC of Soviet Navy.

The Soviet Naval Delegation has spent the time since its arrival in the UAR following the usual schedule for a visiting military delegation. They visited the Naval Training Center at Alexandria, the Naval Academy at Port Said, and the Suez Canal.

Admiral Gorshkov witnessed a review of UAR naval units and culminated the visit by a meeting with President Nasser at Kubbah Palace on December 19. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: To date there is no indication of the actual purpose of this visit to the UAR by the Commander in Chief of the Soviet Navy, nor even that it was necessarily connected with the arrival of the two Soviet destroyers (see below). (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Arrival of Soviet Destroyers.

Two Skoryi Class DD's flying Soviet Naval Ensign arrived at Alexandria on December 15. As of December 21, these ships were still flying the Soviet Colors. (SECRET)

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From Embassy Cairo

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Al-Gumhuriya Editor Arrested.

Ibrahim Nawar, editor-in-chief of Al-Gumhuriya, was discharged from his post and jailed on December 19. Nawar - one of seven editors-in-chief on the newspaper - was the man responsible for the production of the newspaper. The others, such as Nasser El Nashashibi, are writer-columnists. Nawar reportedly was charged with something vaguely described as "a security matter", and with having written an article which could be construed as being mildly critical of the attitude of the Preparatory Committee toward "reactionaries". (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: The casualty rate among UAR editors being what it is, the arrest of Nawar comes as no surprise. It does mark the end of experienced editorial leadership at Al-Gumhuriya, putting that newspaper on the same footing as Al-Akhbar. It also calls attention to what seems to be a systematic attempt by the regime to discharge, arrest, or transfer to positions of lesser importance the responsible - relatively speaking - and experienced elements of the press. To name a few: Moussa Sabri, stripped of authority at Al-Gumhuriya; Kamal Hinnawi, transferred from his job as head of MEN to vice presidency of non-existent Akhbar board of directors; Ahmed Baha el Din, transferred from editorship at daily Al-Akhbar to the weekly Akhbar El Yom; and Amin Shaker, ousted this week from his position as editor of Binaa Al-Watan and Arab Review. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. India's Action in Goa Praised by UAR Press.

The UAR press hailed the "triumph" over colonialism achieved by India in the Goa action, and gave wide coverage to Krishna Menon's expressions of gratitude for UAR support. Al-Akhbar editorially explained that UAR support for India was quite natural, "just as it is also natural that Britain, the United States, France, Holland and Belgium, as colonial states, should stand by Portugal's side." (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Editor Attacks Government Restrictions on Newsmen.

Ahmed Baha el Din, in a refreshingly outspoken editorial in Akhbar El Yom, asked a number of blunt questions about why newsmen are forbidden to enter numerous government offices to interview officials. He asked: "Do all of these places deal with top military secrets? Of course not ... Why these orders? Why these high fences which in reality protect nothing? ... In whose interest is this thick curtain drawn between government organs and the people ...?" (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Curtis C. Strong
Curtis C. Strong
Acting Political Counselor

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DESP. NO.

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December 29, 1961

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SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 52

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2. UAR Dissolves Federation with Yemen.
3. UAR Attitude About Latest Tension in Kuwait.
4. Visit of Burmese Prime Minister U Nu to UAR.
5. Preparatory Committee Meetings.

ARMY

1. Joint African Command Meeting..
2. British Military Moves in Middle East.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. UAR Editor Criticizes UAR Scientists.
2. British Military Movements Played Up in UAR Press.
3. Foreign Reactionaries Subjects of Continuing Press Attacks.

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Desp. No. 330
From Amembassy CairoPOLITICAL1. Nasser Attacks "Reactionary" Arab Rulers in Port Said Speech.

Nasser's two-hour speech in Port Said on December 23 in which he sharply attacked King Saud, King Hussein, and the Imam of Yemen, provided the signal for UAR termination of its federation with Yemen (see below) and the launching of a vigorous press campaign against the "reactionary" rulers in the Arab world. Central theme of the speech was the linking of the struggle to eliminate "feudalism" and "reaction" in the UAR with the continuing struggle against imperialism and its stooges in other Arab countries who are bending every effort to cause the UAR's socialist revolution to fail, both within the UAR and elsewhere in the Arab world.

Nasser noted derisively that the Imam of Yemen had composed a poem against socialism. As for King Saud Nasser said it was natural for him to be against socialism since "where would he get his gold ... how could he afford to keep his concubines" if social justice were carried out in Saudi Arabia? King Hussein also came in for an extended blast. As usual Nasser treated him as a contemptible adolescent who had gone to London to get instructions from "his masters".

Nasser stuck closely to his central theme of socialism and its role in the Arab world, and made no reference to broader international issues. Although the speech created the picture of the UAR fighting a lonely battle for social reform while beset by reactionary and imperialist conspiracies, it also conveyed the impression that Nasser is confident his theme of social equality is politically potent among the masses in the UAR and other Arab countries. (Embtel 1006)
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. UAR Dissolves Federation with Yemen.

The day after Nasser made his derogatory reference to the Imam of Yemen in his Port Said speech the press published an inspired article saying that GUAR was going to reconsider its relationship with Yemen. This was necessary because, now that the UAR had embarked vigorously on its socialist revolution, it could no longer allow the federation between the UAR and Yemen to act as a screen for the anti-progressive rulership in the latter country.

On December 26 a statement was issued by GUAR officially terminating the functions of the United Arab States, thus bringing to an end the federation which had lasted for 3 years but which had never amounted to anything except, possibly, in bringing Yemen's foreign policy closely in line with the UAR's. The statement said that in the UAR's views true unity between nations was not possible unless there was "harmony" between the parties concerned in their attitude about social problems. The statement was moderately worded, however, and seemed to leave room for the establishment of normal relations between the two governments. One paragraph stated specifically that the UAR would be "zealous" about maintaining good relations with the Government of Yemen in the future. (A-193) (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Comment: With the UAR-Yemen federation becoming an increasing anachronism under Nasser's decision to make the UAR's "socialist revolution" his rallying cry in the Arab world, the UAR's break with Yemen was probably inevitable. Nasser revealed his customary good sense of political timing by making sure it was himself, not the Imam, who took decisive action to break off the relationship, thus preserving his image as the prime mover of political events in the Middle East. (Embtel 1010) (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. UAR Attitude About Latest Tension in Kuwait.

The UAR has made no official statement concerning British military preparations to meet a renewed Iraqi threat in Kuwait, but judging from the voluminous treatment of the subject in Cairo's Government-controlled press, the UAR is once again finding itself in the unpleasant predicament of opposing Qassem's crude threats to take Kuwait by force while at the same time not wishing to come out on the side of a "reactionary" Arab ruler (the Amir of Kuwait). If anything, Nasser's recent attacks on the Arab "reactionaries" have made his dilemma even more poignant than it was last summer when the crisis originally arose. As a result, the UAR press has kept its criticism of Qassem to a minimum, and focused its attacks on Britain, which is pictured as using allegations of an Iraqi military threat to Kuwait as a flimsy pretext to improve the imperialists' military position in the Middle East. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. Visit of Burmese Prime Minister U Nu to UAR.

Prime Minister U Nu of Burma arrived in Cairo on December 24 for a five-day visit. His initial talk with Nasser reportedly dealt with the UAR's socialist policy; additional discussion and explanations continued at subcommittee meetings. U Nu met again with Nasser on December 28. A joint communique is to be issued on December 29. The talks were described by the press as "supplementary to talks that had started between the two leaders at the Belgrade Conference". (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. Preparatory Committee Meetings.

Five new subcommittees were formed by the Preparatory Committee to "allocate representation ratios" within the eight major categories of "popular forces" approved on December 21.

In what "The Egyptian Gazette" described as "a lively debate", the voice of Khaled Mohamed KHALED was again heard, protesting that isolation was "unnecessary and unrequired by our socialism". His remarks were criticized by a number of speakers.

It was reported that the election of the National Congress of Popular Forces was expected to take place in mid-January and that its first meeting would be held in early February. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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From Amembassy Cairo

MILITARY

ARMY

1. Joint African Command Meeting.

Arrangements are being made for a Casablanca Conference of the Supreme Council for Joint African Command to begin on January 8 in Rabat, according to the local press.

Major General Mohamed FAWZI, Director of the UAR Military Academy, who has served as Chairman of prior meetings, will represent Egypt. The conference reportedly will select a location for the Joint African Command Headquarters. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. British Military Moves in Middle East.

There has been no visible UAR military reaction to recent British fleet movements in the Middle East -- even though local press coverage has been extensive (See Political and Psychological). (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. UAR Editor Criticizes UAR Scientists.

"Al Ahram" Science Editor, Fawzi el SHETWI, returned from a recent trip to the United States (sponsored by Study Missions International) appalled at the state of UAR science in comparison to what he saw in America. Since his return a month ago, he has written a series of articles praising US researchers' economy of method, and condemning in forthright terms the inefficiency of UAR scientists. Describing what he saw in one US laboratory, he said: "I saw little apparatus and a great deal of work ... UAR researchers, like stamp collectors, tend to store their equipment and then ask for thousands of pounds for more equipment that might be useful sooner or later. Every lab in the UAR does its best to spend all its budget ... this is to justify higher appropriations. Thus huge budgets are taken as an indication of the lab's importance. In fact, this is just deliberate and legalized destructiveness." In an article headed "Prejudice Has Expelled Them", el Shetwi calls to the attention of Minister of Scientific Research Salah HEDAYAT the fact that UAR scientists who go to the US do not want to return. Mr. El Shetwi attributes this to what he calls the divide and rule policy of UAR officials, who, he says, play one member of their research staff against another in order to keep them in line. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Fawzi el Shetwi is an outspoken man who has defied the authorities before, refusing to permit his science page to be used for political purposes. It remains to be seen how long his deserved reputation as the only competent science reporter in the UAR will protect him from the consequences of his forthrightness. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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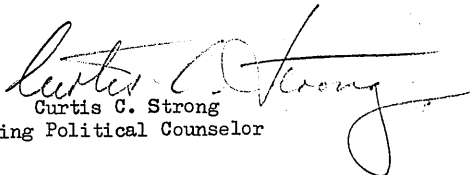
2. British Military Movements Played Up in UAR Press.

Initial UAR press reaction to reports of British troop movements in the Middle East was moderate in the sense that it did not receive the screamer headline treatment usually used in such cases. But by the end of the week the temp had increased and the story was bannerlined in all major Arabic dailies. "Gumhuriya" said: "The British conspiracy comes as a result of the forward surge of socialism in the UAR". "Al Akhbar": "Kassem appears to be the second target of the imperialist plan, the first having been the separation of Syria from the UAR. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Foreign Reactionaries Subjects of Continuing Press Attacks.

UAR editorial writers this week continued to hammer away on the reactionary King Saud and the Imam of Yemen. NASHASHIBY of "Gumhuriya" wrote: "Yemen has been the enemy of knowledge, progress and liberty. It has opposed any social progress and has invariably stood in the face of any action taken to support the nationalist movement in southern Arabia ...". "Ahram" said: "It has been inevitable to take a final decision with the question of federal union with Yemen, since the UAR has no desire to help reactionary forces in Yemen take advantage of this bond." King Saud was described as having received further orders from his masters (in Washington) and King Hussein ditto from London. In this atmosphere of "striking out at enemies" the UAR press did not neglect the U.S., coming out with a number of anti-US comments, although so far it has not been a concerted attack of the kind often experienced in the past. "Gumhuriya" referred to Ambassador Stevenson's statements on the Indian invasion of Goa saying: "... this attitude proves beyond doubt that America is the bridgehead of imperialism everywhere and cannot tolerate the liberation of peoples." Again in "Gumhuriya", Moussa SABRI wrote indignantly of the Israeli domination of US information media as evidenced by the "New York Times" unfavorable comment on internal UAR conditions. "It is a shame", says Sabri, "that small nations sacrifice millions of their martyrs in order to wrench their independence while the USA, the strongest power of the so-called free world, is unable to liberate herself from Israeli imperialism." (UNCLASSIFIED)

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